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JOHN BULL

Vol. XI. No. 265. SATURDAY, JULY 1, 1911. ONE PENNY.

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

For meaning of this No. see Page 11. of cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

"JOHN BULL'S"
Companion Publications.

"MRS. BULL"

A LIVE PAPER FOR LIVE WOMEN.

Published Every Tuesday,

ONE PENNY.

"LOTINGA'S WEEKLY"

A REAL PICTORIAL SPORTING JOURNAL.

Published Every Wednesday.

ONE PENNY.

SEASIDE ENTERTAINMENT COUPON.

Available from JULY 1 to JULY 5 inclusive.
See page 26

FURNITURE,
—SECONDHAND—
IMPORTANT PRIVATE SALE.

The NEWMAN and OXFORD STREET FURNITURE and ANTIQUE DEPOSITORIES (Ltd.) OFFER the FOLLOWING GENERAL HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS, including DRAWING-ROOM, DINING-ROOM, and BED-ROOM FURNITURE, PLATE, LINEN, CARPETS, PIANOS, etc., etc., removed from Marlborough Place (Brighton), Lissenden Gardens (Highgate), Dover Road (Blackheath), Belgrave Square, S.W., 1, Hyde Park Place, W., Theobald's Park, and elsewhere: Magnificent pieces of furniture, half the original cost. No reasonable offer will be refused. The following are some of the bargains obtainable:

The BED-ROOM FURNITURE comprises: Iron bedsteads, from 9s.; black and brass bedsteads, from 10s.; full-size black and brass bedstead, 11s.; 4ft. 6in. oak bedstead, with wire mattress, 30s.; 10 oak bedsteads, 14s. 6d.; very fine pair brass twin bedsteads, £4 10s.; large-size mahogany bedstead, inlaid, with wire mattress, £3 10s.; all-brass bedstead, full size, £2 7s. 6d.; pair mahogany twin bedsteads, fitted with wire mattresses, £2 19s. 6d.; pair all-brass Italian bedsteads, £6 10s.; a square tube all-brass Italian bedstead, £8 8s.; and several others up to 20 guineas; several white-enamelled bed-room suites, from £4 5s.; oak bedroom suites £4 10s. three solid oak bedroom suites, with side cheval glasses to dressing-table, £5 5s. each; satin-walnut bed-room suite, with cheval wings to dressing-table, £6 10s.; a walnut bed-room suite, £7 5s.; an inlaid Sheraton design bed-room suite £7 10s.; a similar suite, £10 10s.; 4ft. 6in. inlaid Sheraton design bedroom suite, £11 11s.; 5ft. inlaid Sheraton design bed-room suite, £18 18s.; 5ft. mahogany bed-room suite, £19 19s.; 6ft. Sheraton design bed-room suite, 24 guineas; 6ft. mahogany bed-room suite, 27 guineas; 6ft. walnut bed-room suite, 22 guineas; 7ft. inlaid suite, 40 guineas; 7ft. Louis bed-room suite, most exquisite design, 80 guineas; six inlaid Sheraton design chests, from £2 2s. each; 6ft. walnut wardrobe, 15 guineas; 16in. walnut boot-stand, 21s. 2ft. 6in. Empire mahogany washstand and writing-table combined, 60s.; 4ft. 6in. burr walnut hanging wardrobe.

The DINING-ROOM FURNITURE comprises: Most massive Elizabethan design dining-room set, consisting of sideboard, overmantel, and suite upholstered in red leather, £15 15s.; 7ft. mahogany sideboard, £9 10s.; 20 old-design dining-room chairs, upholstered in real morocco, £1 1s. each; magnificent solid oak dining-room set, £9 10s.; oak suite, upholstered in green pegamoid, £3 15s.; sideboard to match, £7 7s. overmantel, 45s.; Chippendale dining-room set, £10 10s.; Queen Anne mahogany dining-room set, £7 18s. 6d.; solid oak sideboard, £3 10s.; 20ft. extending dining-table, £5 5s.; fumed-oak dining-room set, consisting of sideboards, six chairs, two carved chairs, overmantel, rug, etc., will accept £13 13s. lot; a most superb Chesterfield and two club large easy chairs, upholstered in green leather, £14 14s. set; a Sheraton design sideboard, £5 15s.; mahogany bookcase, £2 18s. 6d.; mahogany writing bureau, 32s. 6d.; several overmantels, from 15s.; about 20 dining-tables, extending different lengths, from 17s.6d.; about 50 odd dining-room chairs, all to be sold with no reserve; 20in. inlaid mahogany revolving bookcase, 45s.; 4ft. 6in. walnut pedestal cylinder writing-table, £9 15s.

The DRAWING-ROOM FURNITURE comprises: Very fine drawing-room suite, £2 10s.; another elaborate drawing-room suite, £5 15s.; satin-wood drawing-room suite, £6 10s.; Sheraton design drawing-room suite, £7 10s.; most elegant French design drawing-room suite, Louis XIV., upholstered in French tapestry, £19 19s.; Chesterfield drawing-room suite, most exquisite design, £17 17s.; set of Dutch marqueterie inlaid chairs, £14 14s.; most elegant Vernis Martin cabinet, £18 18s.; another one, £10 10s.; buhl cabinet, £12 12s.; table ensuite, £8 8s.; large Chesterfield, upholstered in silk, £6 6s.; two Chesterfields, £2 10s. each; Chippendale occasional tables, from 10s. 6d.; Sheraton design cabinet, £2 10s.; oval gilt table, £10 10s.; pair 9-light candelabras, 6gns.; pair 5-light candelabras, 10gns.; clock in ormolu case, 10gns.; Chippendale design cabinet, £5 10s.; two white enamelled overmantels, 18s. 6d. each; elegant piano, £7 10s.; an upright grand piano, mahogany case, nearly new, with iron frame, £12 12s.; grand pianos by Steinway, Bechstein, Bluthner, Collard and Collard, etc.; about 50 reversible carpets, from 7s.; tapestry carpets, with border, from 14s. 6d.; also some elegant Brussels carpets, Axminster carpets, etc., from 18s. 6d. each; Mirzapore, Turkey, and Oriental carpets and rugs to match, from £2 10s. each; about 10 very large Axminster-Wilton carpets, from £5 5s. (worth considerably more). Great quantity of Hall Furniture. Also about six roll-top desks, from £4 7s. 6d. each; also quantity of Library and Office Furniture, about 20 vols. of books, large quantity of electro-plate, china, glass, cutlery, kitchen utensils, lace curtains, bed and table linen, etc. Country buyers should call and inspect these goods. All goods delivered, town or country, free of charge, or can remain stored free for 12 months. All goods can be seen where they are now lying, for the convenience of sale, any day, from nine till nine, except Saturday, when we close at seven, at

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The following claims have been received for our issue of May 20th:—

DENNIS JONES. St. Vincent's, Sandbanks Road, Parkstone. No. 104,761. May 20th.

A. R. WELLING, 114, Huddleston Road, Tufnell Park, N. No. 14,221. May 20th.

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of June 3rd:—

1047	184246	364031	517844	728203
8129	201165	371327	542627	739741
31448	208728	382443	570485	741799
62749	227990	397239	585867	761161
70420	238438	405819	625305	761810
82329	241938	431047	664045	778347
89346	262481	450763	670858	798514
108005	305597	466424	692449	807039
129372	314092	477868	708121	832956
166435	337184	487456	711876	837698

INITIAL NOUGHTS SHOULD BE DISREGARDED, BUT FINAL ONES ARE, OF COURSE, RECKONED.

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED JULY 29TH (PUBLISHED JULY 27TH).

The John Bull League.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

The General Secretary,
93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

Please enrol me as a Member and send me a Membership Badge, for which I enclose P.O. for 6d.

Name .....

Address .....

....

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. XI. No. 265. Saturday, July 1st, 1911. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, at 93, Long Acre, London, W.C., according to whether they relate to Editorial or Business matters.
All editorial inquiries MUST BE MADE BY LETTER.

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TO READERS ABROAD.

JOHN BULL *is on sale at all Bookstalls and Newsagents throughout Great Britain and Ireland and the Continent as follows:—Paris, at the Railway Stations—Nord, Ouest, P.L.M., Orleans, l'Est; the principal Kiosques on the Boulevards, etc.; Messrs. W. H. Smith & Son's Bookshop, 248, rue de Rivoli; Libraries—Timotei, rue Castiglione; Brentano's, Avenue de l'Opera; Byron, rue Castiglione; Galignani, 224, rue de Rivoli; Anglaise, Avenue Victor Hugo; Charruet, rue d'Isty; Lebeau, Avenue Kleber; F. Tennant Pain, 18, rue Favart, Wholesale and Continental Representative. Railway Bookstalls and principal Libraries at Marseilles, Hyeres, Cannes, St. Raphael, Nice, Beaulieu, Monaco, Monte Carlo, Mentone. It is also obtainable through Messrs. Gordon & Gotch's Agencies in the Colonies.*

The John Bull League.

GLASGOW AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

GRAND EVENING CRUISE
TO
LOCH LONG
This (Thursday) Evening, June 29th,
By Turbine Steamer "KING EDWARD."
Train leaves Central Station at 6.20 p.m. (via Gourock).
TICKETS 2/- EACH.
To be obtained from H. McCone (Central Secretary), 1,222, Springburn Road, and from Members of Executive Committee.

PLYMOUTH AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

AN EVENING TRIP
per
S.S. "BRUNEL,"
TO
PENTILLIE CASTLE,
to land for one hour
(permission kindly granted by W. CORYTON, Esq.)
ON THURSDAY, JULY 6th, 1911.
A GRAND MUSICAL CONCERT
has been arranged for the occasion.
Times of departure.
G. W. Docks, 6.30; North Corner, 6.40; and Pottery Quay, 6.45 p.m.
Refreshment on board.
Tickets, SIXPENCE EACH.
can be obtained from Mr. S. Coase, 5, Hanover Road, Laira; Mr. A. Matthews, 1, Paradise Place, Stoke; Mr. A. W. H. Matthews, 20, Whittington Street, Plymouth; Mr. J. Clemow, 97, Union Street, Stonehouse; Mr. E. G. Warn, 104, Townshend Avenue, Keyham Barton; Mr. W. I. Tyacke, 7, Edgcumbe Avenue, Stoke; or of any member of the Committee, or on board, and from the Local Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. E. Hutchings, 20, Albert Road, Plymouth.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

THE HONOURS.

The chief of these is with the Prime Minister, for having given his Party opponents so large a share of the plums. It is a good sign, and we hope the practice may be extended to Birthday and New Year honours in future. There are several noticeable omissions, but these will soon get their turn. The elevation—or should we, in these days, say the lowering?—of Acland-Hood and Akers-Douglas to the Peerage will remove from the Commons two of its most interesting figures; it will take us a little while to get used to "Sir William Byles" and "Sir Edward Carlile" and "Sir Arthur Markham"; but we shall soon grow accustomed to seeing "F. E." asserting his right to a seat on the Front Opposition Bench!

AFTER THE CORONATION.

Now back to the hurly-burly—and the Revolution! We had almost forgotten the Revolution—which is having very bad luck. To be twice interrupted—by the Christmas holidays and then by a Coronation—well, a *real* revolution could scarcely survive that! Still, we must try to work it up again, or the Party system will receive its death blow.

THE COMING ELECTION.

Meanwhile, we must be getting ready for another General Election. It will be a terrible nuisance, but it can't be helped. (Ask the Party Whips, if you doubt us.) Besides, with the exception of South Hackney, we doubt whether any constituency is ready for it.

EXIT THE WHITEWASHER.

It would be hypocrisy on our part to pretend that we are heartbroken over the unseating of Mr. Masterman. From a purely personal point of view, it was bad luck—and he must be cursing those Welsh solicitors! But what are we to say of a Minister of the Crown—and Under-Secretary of State—responsible for the efficiency of a great public Department, who could let such irregularities occur under his very nose? And we notice, without surprise, that even to the last he maintained his rôle of the whitewasher, and declared Mr. Davies to have been the best agent he ever had. But all is for the best. Whatever constituency he next woos will have an opportunity of pronouncing judgment on that Akbar Reformatory business. We will see to that.

THE CRUEL "CHRONICLE"!

Well may Mr. Masterman say, Spare me from my friends." In the course of a special leaderette in the *Daily Chronicle*, breathing sympathy for the unseated Minister, occurs this biting rebuke: "The business side of an election is a highly technical matter, and requires to be treated on sound business lines." That, of course, is just where Mr. Masterman broke down.

Those "News"-papers!

Speaking of the *Daily Chronicle* reminds us that one day last week that journal came out with a special poster announcing that the Lords had determined to insist upon excluding from the operation of the Parliament Bill all measures involving Constitutional change—such as Home Rule or any interference with the prerogative of the Crown. We announced this weeks ago; and it now only remains for our contemporaries to shortly predict another General Election.

Two Good Things.

On other pages will be found particulars of two very special treats for readers of John Bull and *Mrs. Bull*. First, we have arranged a hundred free holidays of a week's duration at St. Cecile, the charming new French health resort. First-class railway and hotel accommodation is included. All you have to do is to send in coupons claiming the passes, which will be allotted in pairs to those sending in the largest number. The second scheme enables any reader of this journal, on production of a coupon from the current week's issue, to enjoy the principal seaside entertainments at greatly reduced prices. Verily, our readers are in for a good time!

Missionary Marauders.

We welcome the recent visit of the Reverend Peter John and the Reverend Mikyl Simon, who have just been sent to gaol for two months and are presently to be deported. They came over from Syria with a document signed by Patriarch Mar Skimmer (not Skinner), of Chaldea, and a number of bogus letters of introduction which had already done duty for their forerunners; they seem to have collected quite a comfortable sum of money from sympathisers with distressed Oriental Christians; and they confessed quite frankly that they had spent it all on drink and hotel bills. We are of course very sorry that amiable old ladies of either sex should have been persuaded to part with money for objects which must have clashed with their principles, but there have been so many Eastern impostors of this kind that a little revelation may act as a salutary warning. We remember during the period of the Armenian hysteria what hordes of dusky reprobates haunted charitable districts selling Armenian rubbish at high prices and collecting generous subscriptions for the alleged victims of Kurdish oppression. If only kind people would restrict their doles to the relief of cases under their own noses, a very profitable fraud would soon die a natural death.

Scarborough's Bathing Inspector.

It is pointed out to us by Mr. F. Frith, deputy chairman of the Pleasure Boats and Bathing Committee, that while it is true that Mr. Fenton, the new Northside bathing inspector, is a draper, he was the applicant who came nearest, in the opinion of the Scarborough Town Council, as represented by 21 votes to 3, to fulfilling their requirements that "applicants must be able to swim, have good eyesight and hearing, rig and equip a boat, possess knowledge of tides and currents, and understand first-aid and artificial respiration." It appears that Mr. Fenton is an expert swimmer, having won over 50 prizes; that he holds a certificate as teacher and examiner from the Royal Life-Saving Society; and that the Council laid more stress on these accomplishments than on special knowledge of tides and boat-manning. Of course, if Scarborough has no boatmen competent for the post, there is an end of the matter, and the greater credit is due to the draper for outclassing them all. Nothing succeeds like success. May Mr. Fenton get on swimmingly.

Clerks Must Combine.

We have received an appeal from the National Union of Clerks, which certainly deserves encouragement if it is carried out on proper lines. The objects set forth are excellent, and we hope that they are not too ambitious. Sick pay, out-of-work pay, a benevolent fund for specially necessitous cases and free legal advice in case of a dispute with an employer, are all promised. There is also to be an agitation for a legal minimum wage of 35s. per week for clerks of full age in London and provincial towns, as well as inspection of offices under the Factory Act. Considering what is expected of a clerk, we have always thought that his rewards compare unfavourably with those of artisans, bricklayers' labourers and even scavengers. We have never quite understood why clerks should be regarded as outside the working class and deprived of the sympathetic help of labour organisations. Our black-coated friends have certainly been somewhat slow in putting their shoulders together, and we hope that they are now at last beginning to realise that they can only obtain justice by strenuously fighting their own battles. When they do so, however, they must not forget the claims of their colleagues of the gentle sex.

Stony of Stone.

We had always imagined that if there was one place in the whole wide world where we could be certain of encountering real patriotism, it was gallant little Wales. "Wales for the Welsh" had become almost as monotonous as a parrot's cry. Now, it has recently been decided, wisely or unwisely we know not, to build "National Libraries" at Cardiff and Aberystwyth, but a committee of Welshmen has discovered that Wales is incapable of supplying stone suitable for the undertakings. In view of the fact that Wales has been supplying building material throughout the centuries, not only for its own needs but for those of its neighbours, this sudden self-depreciation must excite as much astonishment over here as it does indignation in Wales. The moment for this demonstration is also singularly inoppportune, for there are hundreds of Welsh workmen out of employment owing to the slackness of the building trade, and starvation has begun to menace districts which were exceedingly prosperous not so very long ago. Welshmen, however, are so clannish that we shall be surprised if they are found to display excessive generosity when the promoters of this precious scheme come round soliciting subscriptions.

The Railway Rush.

Our remarks on the Gee-Whizz Railway have brought in many notes of exclamation from travellers on other lines. One of them tells us that by leaving Liverpool Street at 10.20 one morning he succeeded in reaching a place called Ongar, twenty miles away, by 11.55, which he calculates out at 12½ miles an hour. Another writes:—"The following incident occurred, not seventy years ago, but as recently as Monday last. The identity of a train advertised to leave the Central Station, Brighton, at 9.5 p.m., proved an awful mystery to the officers at that terminus. However, we were at length directed to the correct platform, and the train left very few minutes late. After making every allowance for Whitsun and the warm weather one would expect, considering we were following the direct route, to make Victoria in about two hours' time. We arrived at 12.8 a.m., on Tuesday. A stop at every semblance of a station is not, I believe, unusual on this line, but frequent halts of varying periods between, and a snail's pace on top of that, were hardly bargained for. However inconvenient this may have been to those having no further to go than London, to others it meant the loss of nearly every connection for other parts of the Kingdom and a waste of many hours in very unpleasant circumstances. A donkey-chaise next time."

Post Office Encouragement of Dishonesty.

There seems to be no limit to the amazement which our businesslike Post Office is capable of providing. One of our readers was expecting a letter at his business premises in Hull on a Sunday, but knew that he would not be able to get inside to fetch it, so he went to the Post Office to notify his change of address to his lodgings. But the officials refused on the ground that he was not a householder, nor would they keep the letter so that he might go and claim it on Sunday morning. *But*, if he would pay 3d., they would send a special messenger to any address in the town, or notify him if no letter came. If they could do this, we do not see why they could not keep the letters to be called for. However, our correspondent does not grudge them his threepenny bit. He is merely pointing out that anyone willing to pay threepence can have other people's letters delivered to him wherever he likes.

The Benefits of Civilisation.

A correspondent writes: "We buy pheasants at 3d. per brace, eggs nine for ½d., coal at 4s. 2d. per ton, pigeons at ½d. each, and flour at ¼d. per pound out here in Central Shansi, West China." But the uncivilised Chinese have not got the blessings of ground landlords, mining royalties, game laws and party government.

Territorials and Their Tobacco.

If we wanted to convince anybody that we are a patient and long-suffering people, we should only have to point to the Territorials. Apart from the annoyances they tamely endure from the stupidity and insolence of officers who are set over them after failure in the regular Army, they are perpetually vexed and harassed by unnecessary regulations. The latest is to forbid the solace of cigarettes when halting for rest during marches and manœuvres. This must be all the more annoying in view of the fact that pipes are permitted. Many people who find comfort in a cigarette after a hard march happen to dislike the taste and smell of pipes and do not care to expose themselves to swallowing great gulps of liquid nicotine. But the War Office evidently still cherishes the Early Victorian theory that cigarettes are only for stage villains, and those of us who are enthusiastic enough to offer ourselves for training to fight our country's battles must put up with their silly whims. Yet there are people who wonder why the military service is not popular!

Tommy's Tribulations.

Here also is an instructive growl. A correspondent informs us that he has served his country for upwards of twenty-eight years in the Army, Reserve and Militia; he lost his work on several occasions through attending musketry-training, and he is the possessor of a medal for distinguished conduct in the field. It was therefore, perhaps, not unreasonable that he should consider himself entitled to some sort of pension as well as to the daily sixpence allowed in connection with his medal. An application to the Secretary of State for War, however, elicited the reply that his colour service (nearly ten years) was insufficient for a pension, and that he was not eligible for the sixpences, which were only meant to supplement an already existing pension. He asks: "Why do not the Government be honest and tell those lads enlisting that they must not expect a farthing should they give forty years to the Militia or Territorials? And by what I can hear they will allow but very few in the regular Army to complete more than twelve years with the colours, so good-bye to pensions, except for officers." It is certainly open to argument that, in the event of fresh trouble in the Transvaal or anywhere else, necessitating a call upon the patriotism of the nation, many prospective soldiers are likely to be deterred from giving their services by the grievances of fighters who have been left to starve.

Fierce Football.

The sportsmen of Budapest do not appear to enjoy a monopoly of vigorous resentment in the hour of defeat. A correspondent at Taiping sends us a delightful account of a football match recently played between Matang and Jebong:—

> Shortly after play had commenced a foul was claimed and disallowed. The claimant immediately struck his opponent in the face and got one back himself; and then the whole field, the Europeans excepted, fell to. The flag posts were torn up and used as weapons of offence. Thud! Thud! went the blows. The onlookers began to tear down branches and join the fray. Some rushed to battle with changkals, one bright beauty had a square-faced gin bottle at the end of a bit of cord and was swinging it in a very nasty manner (as your funny man will insist upon calling this a *gin sling* I may as well get it in first myself) and things were looking very ugly indeed when two or three motor-cars appeared upon the scene with a few Englishmen, who set to work, split up the opposing armies, routed them in detail and established peace. Personally, I should have let the bounders finish it off and let the survivors take the consequences.

After an experience like this the Cup Final must seem a very tame affair to sportsmen coming home from Matang or Jebong.

Justices' Justice at Taunton.

We cannot compliment Mr. Jeffreys Allen-Jeffreys, Mr. Arthur Eastwood, Mr. J. E. Wakefield, Mr. Wyndham Slade and Mr. V. Stenhouse, county magistrates of Taunton, on their decision in the case of old Pike, prosecuted before them for hawking without a licence. For many years the old man has been a well-known figure in the town with his donkey and cart, hawking paraffin. He had taken out a licence every year for keeping petroleum, and thought this was all he had to do, being, doubtless, confirmed in this view by the attitude of the Excise authorities. For twenty years or more he had gone about with his donkey and cart, and these officials must have known exactly what he was doing; and yet not until the year of Our Lord 1911 do they prosecute him for "hawking without a licence." The old man expressed his regret for having broken the law in ignorance, and a nominal fine, or even a warning without a fine, would surely have met the case. Yet the magistrates imposed a penalty of £2 and 6s. costs, the Chairman, Mr. Jeffreys Allen-Jeffreys, giving an extra sting to the vindictive decision by remarking "that if the defendant had nothing to distrain upon, he would have to go to gaol for seven days." Whether by this time the old fellow has found the money we do not know; probably the people of Taunton will have helped him. To allow him to be sent to prison would reflect on the inhabitants almost as unfavourably as the sentence itself does upon the local Bench.

The Curse of the Skirt.

The success of the harem skirt ought now to be assured—for it has found its martyr. A young lady in Bucharest has been shot by her young man for daring to wear the forbidden vesture. We are still puzzled that a modest and convenient garment should provoke insults, riots and now murder, but the moral is that, if women do not mean their slavery to be perpetuated, they must redouble their activities. After all, they pay so much more attention to clothes than the ugly sex that they may be excused if they begin to dictate about male fashions. Retaliation might well be added to the battle-cries of the Suffragettes. Let us blow up any man who persists in wearing the uglier kind of panama hat or the offensive canary waistcoat or those disreputable feet-cuffs which we believe are honoured by suburban bloods under the appropriately disgusting name of "spats."

Those "News"-papers!

Speaking of the *Daily Chronicle* reminds us that one day last week that journal came out with a special poster announcing that the Lords had determined to insist upon excluding from the operation of the Parliament Bill all measures involving Constitutional change—such as Home Rule or any interference with the prerogative of the Crown. We announced this weeks ago; and it now only remains for our contemporaries to shortly predict another General Election.

Two Good Things.

On other pages will be found particulars of two very special treats for readers of John Bull and *Mrs. Bull*. First, we have arranged a hundred free holidays of a week's duration at St. Cecile, the charming new French health resort. First-class railway and hotel accommodation is included. All you have to do is to send in coupons claiming the passes, which will be allotted in pairs to those sending in the largest number. The second scheme enables any reader of this journal, on production of a coupon from the current week's issue, to enjoy the principal seaside entertainments at greatly reduced prices. Verily, our readers are in for a good time!

Missionary Marauders.

We welcome the recent visit of the Reverend Peter John and the Reverend Mikyl Simon, who have just been sent to gaol for two months and are presently to be deported. They came over from Syria with a document signed by Patriarch Mar Skimmer (not Skinner), of Chaldea, and a number of bogus letters of introduction which had already done duty for their forerunners; they seem to have collected quite a comfortable sum of money from sympathisers with distressed Oriental Christians; and they confessed quite frankly that they had spent it all on drink and hotel bills. We are of course very sorry that amiable old ladies of either sex should have been persuaded to part with money for objects which must have clashed with their principles, but there have been so many Eastern impostors of this kind that a little revelation may act as a salutary warning. We remember during the period of the Armenian hysteria what hordes of dusky reprobates haunted charitable districts selling Armenian rubbish at high prices and collecting generous subscriptions for the alleged victims of Kurdish oppression. If only kind people would restrict their doles to the relief of cases under their own noses, a very profitable fraud would soon die a natural death.

Scarborough's Bathing Inspector.

It is pointed out to us by Mr. F. Frith, deputy chairman of the Pleasure Boats and Bathing Committee, that while it is true that Mr. Fenton, the new Northside bathing inspector, is a draper, he was the applicant who came nearest, in the opinion of the Scarborough Town Council, as represented by 21 votes to 3, to fulfilling their requirements that "applicants must be able to swim, have good eyesight and hearing, rig and equip a boat, possess knowledge of tides and currents, and understand first-aid and artificial respiration." It appears that Mr. Fenton is an expert swimmer, having won over 50 prizes; that he holds a certificate as teacher and examiner from the Royal Life-Saving Society; and that the Council laid more stress on these accomplishments than on special knowledge of tides and boat-manning. Of course, if Scarborough has no boatmen competent for the post, there is an end of the matter, and the greater credit is due to the draper for outclassing them all. Nothing succeeds like success. May Mr. Fenton get on swimmingly.

Clerks Must Combine.

We have received an appeal from the National Union of Clerks, which certainly deserves encouragement if it is carried out on proper lines. The objects set forth are excellent, and we hope that they are not too ambitious. Sick pay, out-of-work pay, a benevolent fund for specially necessitous cases and free legal advice in case of a dispute with an employer, are all promised. There is also to be an agitation for a legal minimum wage of 35s. per week for clerks of full age in London and provincial towns, as well as inspection of offices under the Factory Act. Considering what is expected of a clerk, we have always thought that his rewards compare unfavourably with those of artisans, bricklayers' labourers and even scavengers. We have never quite understood why clerks should be regarded as outside the working class and deprived of the sympathetic help of labour organisations. Our black-coated friends have certainly been somewhat slow in putting their shoulders together, and we hope that they are now at last beginning to realise that they can only obtain justice by strenuously fighting their own battles. When they do so, however, they must not forget the claims of their colleagues of the gentle sex.

Stony of Stone.

We had always imagined that if there was one place in the whole wide world where we could be certain of encountering real patriotism, it was gallant little Wales. "Wales for the Welsh" had become almost as monotonous as a parrot's cry. Now, it has recently been decided, wisely or unwisely we know not, to build "National Libraries" at Cardiff and Aberystwyth, but a committee of Welshmen has discovered that Wales is incapable of supplying stone suitable for the undertakings. In view of the fact that Wales has been supplying building material throughout the centuries, not only for its own needs but for those of its neighbours, this sudden self-depreciation must excite as much astonishment over here as it does indignation in Wales. The moment for this demonstration is also singularly inoppportune, for there are hundreds of Welsh workmen out of employment owing to the slackness of the building trade, and starvation has begun to menace districts which were exceedingly prosperous not so very long ago. Welshmen, however, are so clannish that we shall be surprised if they are found to display excessive generosity when the promoters of this precious scheme come round soliciting subscriptions.

The Railway Rush.

Our remarks on the Gee-Whizz Railway have brought in many notes of exclamation from travellers on other lines. One of them tells us that by leaving Liverpool Street at 10.20 one morning he succeeded in reaching a place called Ongar, twenty miles away, by 11.55, which he calculates out at 12½ miles an hour. Another writes:—"The following incident occurred, not seventy years ago, but as recently as Monday last. The identity of a train advertised to leave the Central Station, Brighton, at 9.5 p.m., proved an awful mystery to the officers at that terminus. However, we were at length directed to the correct platform, and the train left very few minutes late. After making every allowance for Whitsun and the warm weather one would expect, considering we were following the direct route, to make Victoria in about two hours' time. We arrived at 12.8 a.m., on Tuesday. A stop at every semblance of a station is not, I believe, unusual on this line, but frequent halts of varying periods between, and a snail's pace on top of that, were hardly bargained for. However inconvenient this may have been to those having no further to go than London, to others it meant the loss of nearly every connection for other parts of the Kingdom and a waste of many hours in very unpleasant circumstances. A donkey-chaise next time."

POST OFFICE ENCOURAGEMENT OF DISHONESTY.

There seems to be no limit to the amazement which our businesslike Post Office is capable of providing. One of our readers was expecting a letter at his business premises in Hull on a Sunday, but knew that he would not be able to get inside to fetch it, so he went to the Post Office to notify his change of address to his lodgings. But the officials refused on the ground that he was not a householder, nor would they keep the letter so that he might go and claim it on Sunday morning. *But*, if he would pay 3d., they would send a special messenger to any address in the town, or notify him if no letter came. If they could do this, we do not see why they could not keep the letters to be called for. However, our correspondent does not grudge them his threepenny bit. He is merely pointing out that anyone willing to pay threepence can have other people's letters delivered to him wherever he likes.

THE BENEFITS OF CIVILISATION.

A correspondent writes: "We buy pheasants at 3d. per brace, eggs nine for ½d., coal at 4s. 2d. per ton, pigeons at ½d. each, and flour at ¼d. per pound out here in Central Shansi, West China." But the uncivilised Chinese have not got the blessings of ground landlords, mining royalties, game laws and party government.

TERRITORIALS AND THEIR TOBACCO.

If we wanted to convince anybody that we are a patient and long-suffering people, we should only have to point to the Territorials. Apart from the annoyances they tamely endure from the stupidity and insolence of officers who are set over them after failure in the regular Army, they are perpetually vexed and harassed by unnecessary regulations. The latest is to forbid the solace of cigarettes when halting for rest during marches and manœuvres. This must be all the more annoying in view of the fact that pipes are permitted. Many people who find comfort in a cigarette after a hard march happen to dislike the taste and smell of pipes and do not care to expose themselves to swallowing great gulps of liquid nicotine. But the War Office evidently still cherishes the Early Victorian theory that cigarettes are only for stage villains, and those of us who are enthusiastic enough to offer ourselves for training to fight our country's battles must put up with their silly whims. Yet there are people who wonder why the military service is not popular!

TOMMY'S TRIBULATIONS.

Here also is an instructive growl. A correspondent informs us that he has served his country for upwards of twenty-eight years in the Army, Reserve and Militia; he lost his work on several occasions through attending musketry-training, and he is the possessor of a medal for distinguished conduct in the field. It was therefore, perhaps, not unreasonable that he should consider himself entitled to some sort of pension as well as to the daily sixpence allowed in connection with his medal. An application to the Secretary of State for War, however, elicited the reply that his colour service (nearly ten years) was insufficient for a pension, and that he was not eligible for the sixpences, which were only meant to supplement an already existing pension. He asks: "Why do not the Government be honest and tell those lads enlisting that they must not expect a farthing should they give forty years to the Militia or Territorials? And by what I can hear they will allow but very few in the regular Army to complete more than twelve years with the colours, so good-bye to pensions, except for officers." It is certainly open to argument that, in the event of fresh trouble in the Transvaal or anywhere else, necessitating a call upon the patriotism of the nation, many prospective soldiers are likely to be deterred from giving their services by the grievances of fighters who have been left to starve.

FIERCE FOOTBALL.

The sportsmen of Budapest do not appear to enjoy a monopoly of vigorous resentment in the hour of defeat. A correspondent at Taiping sends us a delightful account of a football match recently played between Matang and Jebong:—

> Shortly after play had commenced a foul was claimed and disallowed. The claimant immediately struck his opponent in the face and got one back himself; and then the whole field, the Europeans excepted, fell to. The flag posts were torn up and used as weapons of offence. Thud! Thud! went the blows. The onlookers began to tear down branches and join the fray. Some rushed to battle with changkals, one bright beauty had a square-faced gin bottle at the end of a bit of cord and was swinging it in a very nasty manner (as your funny man will insist upon calling this a *gin sling* I may as well get it in first myself) and things were looking very ugly indeed when two or three motor-cars appeared upon the scene with a few Englishmen, who set to work, split up the opposing armies, routed them in detail and established peace. Personally, I should have let the bounders finish it off and let the survivors take the consequences.

After an experience like this the Cup Final must seem a very tame affair to sportsmen coming home from Matang or Jebong.

JUSTICES' JUSTICE AT TAUNTON.

We cannot compliment Mr. Jeffreys Allen-Jeffreys, Mr. Arthur Eastwood, Mr. J. E. Wakefield, Mr. Wyndham Slade and Mr. V. Stenhouse, county magistrates of Taunton, on their decision in the case of old Pike, prosecuted before them for hawking without a licence. For many years the old man has been a well-known figure in the town with his donkey and cart, hawking paraffin. He had taken out a licence every year for keeping petroleum, and thought this was all he had to do, being, doubtless, confirmed in this view by the attitude of the Excise authorities. For twenty years or more he had gone about with his donkey and cart, and these officials must have known exactly what he was doing; and yet not until the year of Our Lord 1911 do they prosecute him for "hawking without a licence." The old man expressed his regret for having broken the law in ignorance, and a nominal fine, or even a warning without a fine, would surely have met the case. Yet the magistrates imposed a penalty of £2 and 6s. costs, the Chairman, Mr. Jeffreys Allen-Jeffreys, giving an extra sting to the vindictive decision by remarking "that if the defendant had nothing to distrain upon, he would have to go to gaol for seven days." Whether by this time the old fellow has found the money we do not know; probably the people of Taunton will have helped him. To allow him to be sent to prison would reflect on the inhabitants almost as unfavourably as the sentence itself does upon the local Bench.

THE CURSE OF THE SKIRT.

The success of the harem skirt ought now to be assured—for it has found its martyr. A young lady in Bucharest has been shot by her young man for daring to wear the forbidden vesture. We are still puzzled that a modest and convenient garment should provoke insults, riots and now murder, but the moral is that, if women do not mean their slavery to be perpetuated, they must redouble their activities. After all, they pay so much more attention to clothes than the ugly sex that they may be excused if they begin to dictate about male fashions. Retaliation might well be added to the battle-cries of the Suffragettes. Let us blow up any man who persists in wearing the uglier kind of panama hat or the offensive canary waistcoat or those disreputable feet-cuffs which we believe are honoured by suburban bloods under the appropriately disgusting name of "spats."

STANDS SCOTLAND WHAUR SHE DID?

It is as clear as clear can be that Scotland is going to perdition. Not rapidly, it may be, but unquestionably it is going. Its descent into the bottomless pit and the lake of fire and brimstone has commenced at Kirkintilloch, where the local School Board, "in order to popularise attendance at the Evening Continuation Schools, have unanimously agreed to the institution of a dancing class." This is awfu' sad. That Scotland will come to a bad end has long been the expectation of the prophetic unco guids who have watched the devastating moral influence of the Sunday ice-cream shops upon the land; but that it should dance its way thither under the patronage of a School Board affrights the imagination even more than the historic rush of the Gadarene pigs down the slope. Think of all Scotland being led into Avernus by the youths and maidens of Kirkintilloch tripping on the light fantastic toe to the dreamy music of the cake-walk. Is it too late for the seers and prophets of the Holy Land to save its people from the eternal frizzle which threatens them? Even now Scotsmen must feel the scorching breath of the flames on their souls. Surely the School Board of Kirkintilloch will think again and have mercy.

A SUGGESTED NEW FEATURE.

A Sheffield reader suggests that we should "introduce another page in the columns of JOHN BULL" for a weekly contribution. "The first heading would run: 'The Great Spiritual Volcano, a Living Crater Pouring forth its Burning Lava, Clearing and Destroying All Spiritual Error from the way; *i.e.*, Religions the Devil is Hiding, now Located, the Last Trump the Sounding of the Seventh Angel of Revelations.'" Although our friend says he would "prefer to have Progressive Payments—say a commission on Every Thousand Extra Copies sold," as he knows the value of his writings and the demand there will be for them, and does not think "many homes will be without its JOHN BULL," we are afraid we must refer him to the *Christian Herald*. We must not poach upon our contemporary's preserves.

HOSPITAL HARPIES?

Is it true that, when a man dies in hospital, his family are only allowed to take away his clothes on payment of a stipulated sum? Everybody knows how reluctant hospital authorities are to give free treatment to anyone from whom fees can possibly be obtained, but it does seem carrying the principle to an extreme when the possession of clothes is regarded as evidence of means. Well-to-do patients, as a rule, are only too glad to subscribe something to avoid a feeling of obligation, and there is no excuse for grinding the faces of the poor when they happen to be sick.

SOME ORPHANAGES.

We have received complaints about the unsatisfactory training obtainable in certain Orphanages. Surely the main object of such institutions should be to fit the inmates for success in after life. But we are told that they do not even learn to be efficient as domestic servants. A lady, who doubtless thought herself philanthropic in going to certain Orphanages for servants, gives her experience: "They are utterly unfitted for service, cannot understand why they should not sit in the dining-room and drawing-room. They are brought up from the gutter and pampered and cossetted instead of being sensibly fitted for domestic duties." Of course, we do not admit that the sole aim and object of poor girls should be menial occupation, but charity should not exclude efficiency, and a knowledge of domestic duties is generally necessary even to those women who attain to the holy state of matrimony. Our correspondent should apply, next time, to Mason's Orphanage, at Erdington, the most splendidly managed institution of the kind in the country.

BACON ON MONEYLENDING.

Not the least acute of the many acute *ipse dixits* of the late Judge Bacon was one on money-lenders and money borrowers. "My impression," he said, "is that the lender is about as honest as the borrower. As a general rule there is no misrepresentation which a man will not make when he wants to borrow money, and naturally when he does not want to pay it back he will repeat the operation." The money-lender is always the friend and the preserver when he is relieving the financial situation, but he is always the enemy and the destroyer when he wants back his money at the trade profit. It is the way of the world.

THE L.G.O. COMPANY AND ITS EMPLOYES.

We have received several complaints from old employes of this company, who have been suddenly thrown out of work in consequence of the horse 'buses being taken off the road, and are too old for motor driving. Surely the company, now that its fortunes are rehabilitated, can afford to treat these old servants with a little kindly consideration.

A GOLDEN OFFER FROM THE GOLD COAST.

Who is D. Z. C. Naham? A correspondent recently received a delightful letter from him, dated care of E. C. M. Robertson, Gomua Road, Appam, Gold Coast, saying: "Dear Friend,—I am very glad to write you this few lines to say that I should like to keep correspondence with you, because I was reading a certain newspaper and I came across your name, thus desire me to keep with you. Also I will endeavour to do what will please you. On receipt of this letter, send me some newspapers called *Liverpool Weekly Post* and postcards. I hope you will never refugee to keep with me. I will send you gold ring and *Gold Coast Leader* as a newspaper. Trusting to hear at an earliest date. Yours sincerely, D. Z. C. Naham. Please me your phot." This letter was directed to a sort of anagram of our correspondent's name and his only explanation of its receipt is that he appeared in various papers as the winner of certain competitions. Naham's requirements seem to be modest so far, and a gold ring is a fair exchange for a "phot," but it would be interesting to know whether any other of our readers has been lured into a more extensive correspondence and whether subsequent requests were more ambitious. Perhaps, however, Mr. Naham only desires to extend the circle of his acquaintance with a view to improving his English vocabulary and orthography.

UNITARIAN BOYCOTT AT ILMINSTER.

As Free Church ministers had a greal deal to say about their Anglican Church brethren boycotting them from united Coronation services, it would be interesting to know what they think of the action of the Ilminster Free Churches in boycotting the Unitarians from the united service on Coronation day. This is doing unto others as you don't like others to do unto you, with a vengeance, and strikes us as contemptible to a degree. Oh, these professional jealousies!

THE KERRY BOYS.

From an advertisement in the *Kerry Evening Post* evidently the Kerry boys are still busy. This time the notices of application for compensation under the Malicious Injuries Act come from Tralee—seven for trial at the current County Court sittings. To the firing of crops and barns, the ill-treatment of cattle and poultry, and the poisoning of a salmon river, is now added a variant—that of smashing the wall of a churchyard. What have the corpses done at all, at all?

SERVE HIM RIGHT!

We have no sympathy with Mr. Arthur Newton in his trouble, not because he was guilty of the particular offence with which he was charged—we know he was not—but because, having committed a technical breach of the Prison Regulations by smuggling out a message from Crippen, he had not the courage to admit it, and endeavoured to hide himself behind our back.

OCHLOPHOBIA.

We hope that the attitude of the authorities during the Coronation festivities does not mean that British crowds are henceforth to be dragooned according to the Prussian plan. Great masses of people have hitherto congregated in London on historical occasions, and we never heard of any serious trouble arising, though the streets were not barricaded in the present absurd way. What on earth is there to be afraid of? Cockney crowds are usually quite able to take care of themselves. Besides, if all these precautions were necessary for the Coronation, what *shall* we require for the Constitutional Revolution?

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS.

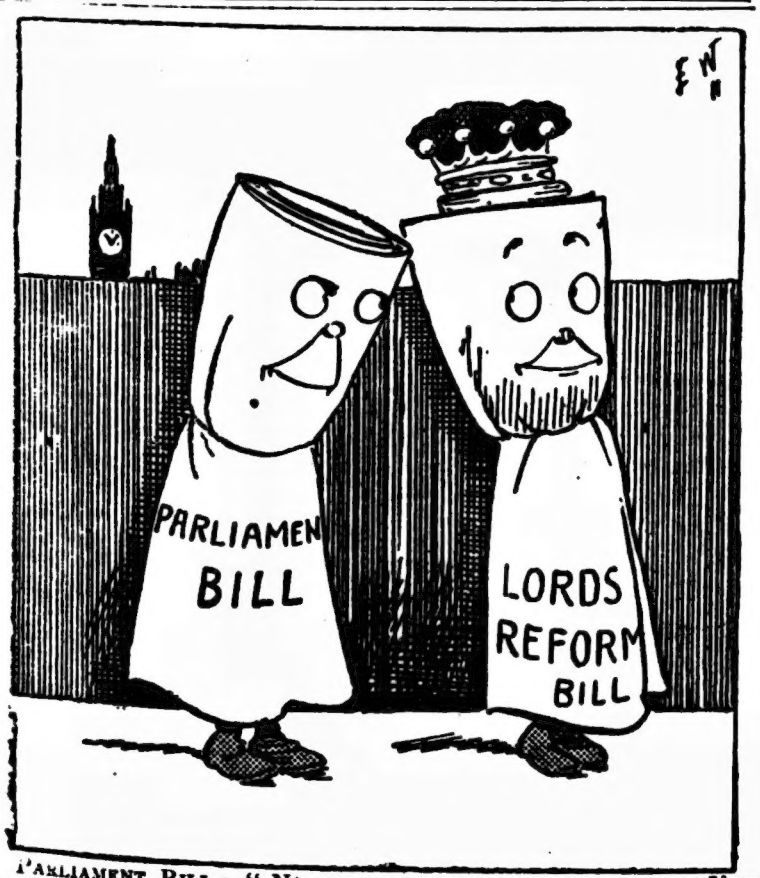
Interesting litigation would have been provided if a number of patriots had organised themselves to pull down the various Coronation barricades which interfered with our right to use our own streets. And we should hesitate to anticipate the verdict of a jury at the trial of people who tore down all the stands which were erected on public ground.

A CABINET RUMOUR

What is this about John Burns and his colleagues? We all know that he wasn't enthusiastic over the "People's Budget," and now it is said that he is up in arms against the Insurance Bill. We shall see John breaking away from the Party system yet—and shall welcome him as a member of our Business Government.

THE WEEK'S "CHESTNUT":—

"It's no use asking *him* to play," said one young cricket enthusiast to his friend—"he doesn't know the game." To which remark came the rejoinder, "Well, he *must* be in it. Why not make him umpire?"



PARLIAMENT BILL: "NOW THE DIFFICULTY IS OLD CHAP, I'VE GOT TO GET PAST YOU——."
LORDS REFORM BILL: "AND I'VE GOT TO GET PAST YOU."

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

For stating that: "The Medical Officer of Health has issued his first annual report, and takes the opportunity of congratulating the town on the DECREASE IN THE DEATH-RATE SINCE HIS RETIREMENT FROM ACTIVE PRACTICE. *He also calls attention to the* REDUCED BIRTH-RATE,"

THE WALSALL ILLUSTRATED JOURNAL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "Over fifteen hundred children joined in a procession from the Island to a field at Tregenna, each little one (UNDER 75) *being presented with a souvenir cup, bun, tea, and sweets,"*

THE WESTERN MORNING NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising as a testimonial from a lady: "After the second treatment she walked downstairs one foot at a time. She has not been able to walk downstairs before in the past five years, except by stepping down on each step with one foot at a time. This is remarkable,"

MESSRS. WALTER LUTHER DODGE & CO.
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "The hon. secretaries of the Coronation Bonfire Celebration write urging that all spectators at Coronation bonfires should be DARNED *at the time of lighting the bonfire mass,"*

THE YORKSHIRE TELEGRAPH & STAR
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

*For publishing a notice headed, "City of Leeds—Coronation Celebrations—*CLOSING OF CEMETERIES,"

MR. ROBERT E. FOX (Town Clerk of Leeds)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "By the adoption of an automatic apparatus the gas lamps at Moffat are now lighted and extinguished SIMULTANEOUSLY,"

THE EDINBURGH EVENING DISPATCH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising in the "Kentish Independent" that: "The Guardians of the Woolwich Union require Estimates for DECORATING AND CLEANSING PORTIONS OF THE NURSES, *Home and Infirmary, Plumstead,"*

MR. TOM CUTTER (Clerk to the Guardians)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "The engagement is announced of MISS ——————, *elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs.* ——————, *Watervillè, Que., to Mr.* ——————, *of Kelowna, B.C., the marriage to be celebrated quietly on June* 14, *and* HER TWO CHILDREN *are leaving this week for Ottawa,"*

THE DAILY PROVINCE (Vancouver, B.C.)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that the Coronation festivities at Yateley would commence "with a peal on the Church Bells AT 9 P.M. *A procession will go round the village at* 10.30 *to the Parish Church, where a service will be held. At one o'clock there will be a dinner for the old people, over* 60 *years old. At* 11.30 *a pageant will start from Yateley Grange arriving at Yateley Green at about* 3 *p.m. Tea will be provided for everybody at* 4.30,"

THE EAST BERKS GAZETTE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "Failing fruit to quench the thirst, NOTHING *is better than lemon and glycerine lozenges, or black-currant lozenges, and,* BETTER THAN EITHER, *lime and glycerine lozenges,"*

THE DAILY MAIL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "An English sailing vessel was wrecked on a small UNINHABITED *island off Jamaica. Two of the sailors, in order to keep up the spirits of their companions, got a violin and an accordion and played to them till dawn. The* NATIVES ON SHORE *heard them,"*

THE CHRISTIAN HERALD & SIGNS OF OUR TIMES
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

CRIPPEN REDIVIVUS.

THE MYSTERY OF THE REPLY TO THE "JOHN BULL" LETTER—"IF YOU SEE IT IN "JOHN BULL" IT *IS* SO."

At the time of going to press, the Divisional Court has not delivered its judgment in regard to the complaint of the Law Society against Mr. Arthur Newton, who acted as Crippen's solicitor, for alleged professional misconduct in connection with the communication which appeared in our issue of November 26th last, and which purported to be the reply of Crippen to the "Open Letter" which we addressed to him in our issue of the 19th. We must not, of course, speculate as to what the judgment will be, but inasmuch as, in technical language, the charge against Mr. Newton was that of "aiding and abetting" us in disseminating false information, our readers will expect us to lose no time in giving our version of the matter—more especially as we have hitherto had no opportunity of doing so.

It will be remembered that in the "Open Letter" to Crippen to which we have referred we made a distinct suggestion that it was in his power to throw further light upon the mystery of the Hilldrop Crescent tragedy, and we made a strong appeal to him to break silence whilst there was yet time. We then took steps to see that a copy of our "Letter" was forwarded to the Governor of Pentonville Gaol, where Crippen was lying under sentence of death, with a request that it should be brought to his notice. Receiving no reply to this request, we next approached Mr. Newton, upon whose goodwill we considered we had a strong moral claim, as we had advanced a sum of £200 towards the costs of Crippen's defence—not a penny of which has since been, or is ever likely to be, returned. We ascertained that Mr. Newton had secured a permit for a final visit to Crippen after the refusal of the Home Secretary to advise a reprieve, and we naturally assumed that this would be a favourable opportunity for eliciting from the condemned man some reply to our "Letter"—which we took it for granted had been read to him by the Governor of the gaol. Mr. Newton's visit was fixed for Monday, November 21st, and on the morning of that day we had a special interview with him, at which it was arranged that he should do his best to obtain a reply.

About half-past four in the afternoon, Mr. Newton came back to our offices—straight from the prison. He informed us that he had had a long conversation with Crippen, with whom he had discussed our "Open Letter," to which he had brought the condemned man's reply. Mr. Newton stated, however, that as it was contrary to the prison regulations for Crippen to be supplied with pen and ink without the special leave of the Governor, he had taken down the reply upon the back of certain papers relating to the case, and which he produced. At his request, the Sub-Editor of JOHN BULL was then called into the room, when Crippen's message was dictated by Mr. Newton from his notes—after we had supplied a short editorial introduction. The original of these notes was carefully preserved with our papers and a memorandum was attached to them by the Sub-Editor recording the fact and the time of their dictation.

We reproduce the facsimile of the original notes, which any student of Pitman's shorthand will have no difficulty in comparing with the Reply, as it appeared in our issue of November 26th.

And here we would draw attention to the wording of our introduction to Crippen's message: "*At the end of the interview this reply was sent to us through Mr. Newton.*" It will be seen that we carefully refrained from using the word "letter," and that we distinctly stated that the reply came "through Mr. Newton."

It should now be mentioned that, for reasons with which we are not concerned, Mr. Newton was about this period, at the instance of Miss Le Neve, suddenly superseded as legal adviser by another firm of solicitors, Messrs. Hopwood and Son. This firm—for aught we know, quite justly—assumed a somewhat hostile attitude towards Mr. Newton, and upon the appearance of Crippen's reply at once wrote to certain papers—including the *Daily Chronicle*—to the effect that "the letter printed in JOHN BULL of the 26th inst., purporting to have been signed by Dr. Crippen, and dated 'Pentonville Prison, November 21st.,' was not written or signed by him." (It may here also be mentioned that the *Daily Chronicle* is in the same proprietary interest as *Lloyd's News*, which was at the time publishing what it claimed to be exclusive information in regard to the Crippen case.)

Thereupon, Mr. Newton wrote to the *Daily Chronicle:*

> SIR,—Our attention has been called to the letter from Messrs. Hopwood and Sons appearing in your issue of Saturday. With reference to the answer from Dr. Crippen to the "Open Letter" recently published in JOHN BULL—which answer appeared in last week's issue of that journal—we beg to say that the same was forwarded through us after our Mr. Newton had read the "Open Letter" to Dr. Crippen. On the same day we had an interview with Miss Le Neve, who also handed us a letter written by herself, and addressed to the editor of *Mrs. Bull*, in answer to an "Open Letter" to her which appeared in that journal. This answer we also handed to the editor.—Yours faithfully,

Personally, we should have thought that this would have effectually disposed of the matter. It appears, however, that certain individuals—we will not attempt to identify them at the moment—thereupon put the Home Office in motion, and suggested that Mr. Newton had abused the privilege of the permit, that no such reply as that published by us had been authorised by Crippen, and that the whole message was a fabrication. And then followed the Enquiry by the Law Society. We were personally unable to attend the hearing, being at the time busily engaged upon a libel action before Mr. Justice Darling—who happened also to be a member of the Divisional Court before whom last week's complaint came. Our Editor therefore wrote the solicitors to the Law Society the following letter:—

> I have your letter. As, however, I am a Defendant in person in the High Court before Mr. Justice Darling to-morrow, I am afraid it will be impossible for me to personally attend the Enquiry, but I will send round a member of my staff with all the papers and documents relating to the matter, with instructions to give you any information and assistance in his power.

Our Sub-Editor thereupon attended the Enquiry, and produced the original notes, as dictated by Mr. Newton, and after hearing his evidence (on oath) and that of Mr. Newton, the Society found in express terms that they believed our Sub-Editor's evidence in preference to that of Mr. Newton, who, by this time, for some incomprehensible reason, had gone back upon the letter he had written to the Press, and instead of sticking to his guns and, as we assert, to the exact facts of the case, had begun to disclaim responsibility for Crippen's reply. It appears that the warders who were present at the prison interview were in conflict with him as to what took place, and ultimately the Committee accepted their version of the facts.

One other document has an important bearing on the case. Early in the month of December we received a letter from the Home Office informing us that they were in communication with Mr. Newton on the subject of Crippen's alleged reply, and asking for our version of the facts, and here is what we wrote them on 8th Dec.:

I do not quite appreciate the object of your letter so far as JOHN BULL is concerned, and it is not for me to intervene in any discussion between the Home Office and Messrs. Arthur Newton and Co. as to their professional conduct. JOHN BULL states that the reply which it had published to its "Open Letter" was received through Mr. Newton after such "Open Letter" had been discussed between Crippen and himself. How far the latter statement is a correct representation of fact I am not, of course, in a position to determine, although I should prefer to accept the word of Mr. Arthur Newton to that of the warders, should they unfortunately conflict. For the rest, I accept full responsibility for everything which appeared in JOHN BULL, and although it is strictly contrary to journalistic practice to say more, I am quite prepared, as a matter of personal courtesy to the Home Secretary, should he desire it, to give him the fullest information as to the circumstances of the publication by us of Crippen's reply to our "Open Letter."

It is not denied that this letter was brought to the notice of Mr. Newton, who took no exception whatever to it; whilst it also appears that he himself wrote to the Home Office to the effect that Crippen's reply "was based upon" the message brought by him to us.

In all these circumstances, it is surely remarkable that when the matter came before the Divisional Court, instead of adhering to what he had written to the *Daily Chronicle*, to what he had acquiesced in our having written to the Home Office, and to what he had himself written to the same Department, he should suddenly have performed a complete *volte-face*, and have sought, in our absence, to shield himself behind the suggestion that if there had been anything wrong we, and not he, were the culprit.

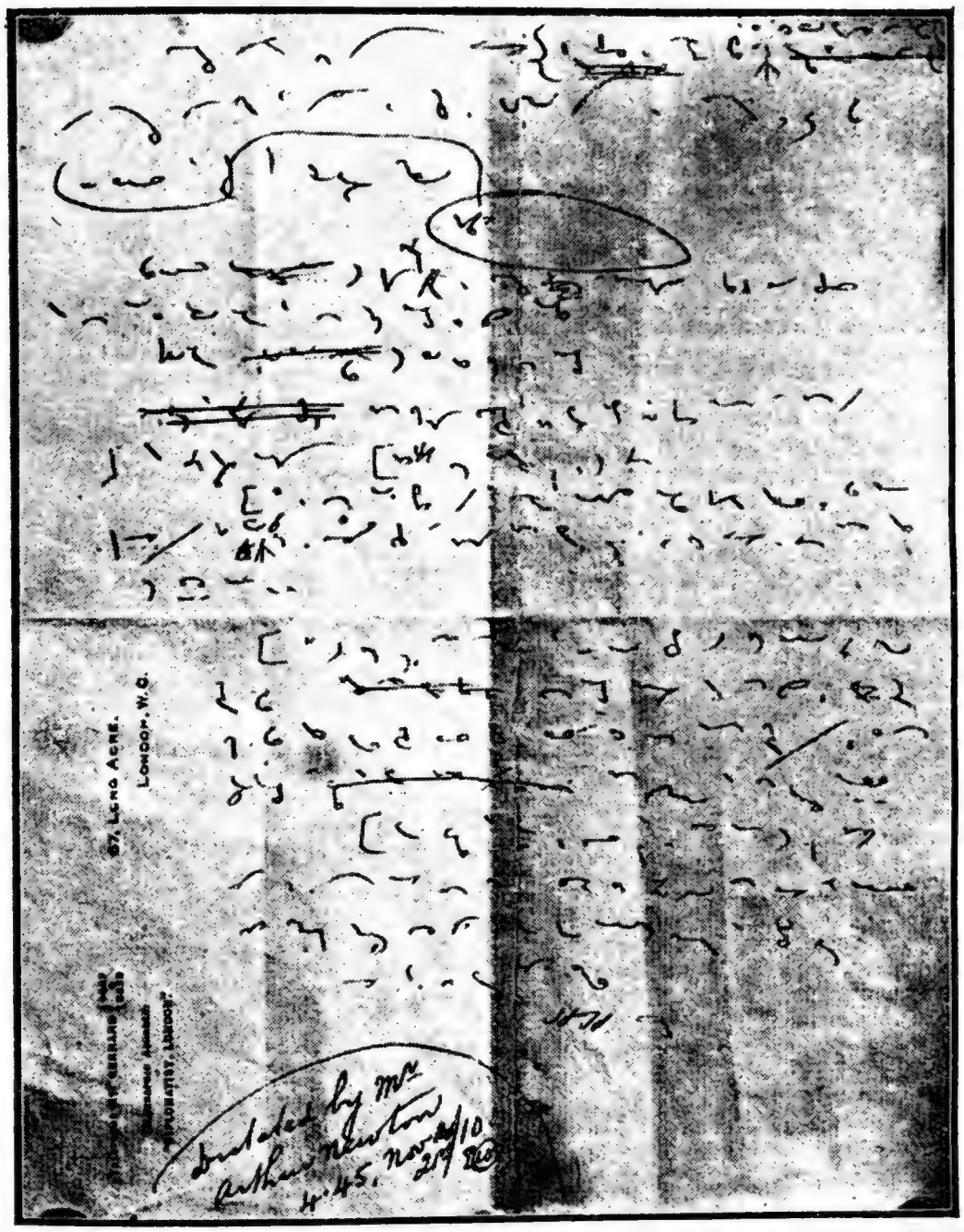
We could, however, do no more than seek an opportunity of going into the box and giving the Court the fullest possible information. The Editor, therefore, wrote the following letter to the Lord Chief Justice:

June 20th, 1911.

MY LORD,—I have read in the papers this evening an account of the proceedings before the Divisional Court in the matter of Mr. Arthur Newton, a solicitor, and, in view of the constant references to myself, I think it right to say that I shall attend the Court upon the resumed hearing to-morrow and hold myself at its service in the event of its being thought that I can be of any assistance in the matter.

It is true that I was subpœnaed to attend the enquiry before the Law Society, but as I was at the time engaged in personally defending a libel case before Mr. Justice Darling, I sent an explanation to this effect by my Sub-Editor, and instructed him, and a member of my staff who has charge of important papers, to give all the information in their power.

In accordance with this undertaking, we attended the Court, and having waited the whole of the morning, offered to go into the box and give the Court any assistance in our power. Prior to this, the Lord Chief Justice had specifically asked Mr. Shearman, K.C. (for Mr. Newton), if he would like to call us, and the significant answer was in the negative!



CRIPPEN'S REPLY AS DICTATED BY MR. NEWTON.

THE TRUE FACTS.

We will now state the true facts of the case, and they will somewhat surprise the public. *Crippen's 'Reply'* WAS *communicated to us through Mr. Newton. It was conveyed to him largely by means of a secret code which had been arranged beforehand, when Mr. Newton was allowed to see Crippen alone—and in the same way as the Confession which appeared in the "Evening Times."* The warders, having no idea of the meaning of the apparently innocent words which passed between Crippen and Mr. Newton, are perfectly honest in their belief that no "message" was sent to us. But Mr. Newton became alarmed, and instead of facing the music, foolishly attempted to shield himself behind us and *implored us to corroborate his story.* We are sorry we could not oblige him. Our first duty is to our readers, and the explanation now given—and which we are prepared to uphold against the world—once more proves our slogan.

A NOTTINGHAM SCANDAL.

HOW MR. W. H. DOBSON BETRAYED A YOUNG WOMAN —AND WAS "JUSTIFIED" BY HIS FAMILY.

We have received a visit from Miss Helen St. Claire Rawlinson, who has asked us to make public certain matters of which she complains. Miss Rawlinson tells us that in 1904, when she was 24 years of age, she met Mr. W. H. Dobson, a member of a well-known Nottingham family, and after a time he induced her to live with him. We understand that Mr. W. H. Dobson is a man of between 50 and 60 years of age, and has private means, or an allowance of a substantial kind. The result of the intimacy was the birth of three children, all of whom are living.

In September last Mr. Dobson and Miss Rawlinson removed to Lyminster, where he started poultry-keeping for the purpose of making provision for the children and their mother after his death. What followed may be given in Miss Rawlinson's own words:

> About a week or two previous to March 7th last he (W. H. Dobson) received a letter from one of his sisters, who is a nun (Sister St. Gertrude) in a convent at Hastings, asking him to meet her in London, as she wanted to see him on a subject she could not very well write about. As he had to go to London, I suggested that he should go and stay with my father for a week and see his sister during his stay. This he agreed to do, and wrote to my father asking him if he could put him up. He left for London on March 7th, parting very affectionately from me and the children, and promising to bring them back a toy revolver each on his return. He left my father's place on March 13th, during my father's absence, and without having notified his intention of leaving. He said he did not know where he was going, and that he would write or wire his destination when he knew. That was on March 13th. Since then nothing has been seen or heard of him.

On March 28th, the solicitors acting on behalf of Mr. Dobson called at his house at Lyminster, took over the poultry, removed the furniture, and turned out Miss Rawlinson and her children. As Miss Rawlinson was penniless, and her father, to whom she went in her extremity, is not able to give her a permanent home, she wrote to Mr. A. T. Dobson, lace manufacturer, of Nottingham, asking him for the address of his brother, Mr. W. H. Dobson, but no answer was received to this letter. Miss Rawlinson's object in appealing to the head of the family was to secure some means wherewith to support herself and Mr. W. H. Dobson's children, even though it was only the 15s. a week which the law would compel him to pay.

Unable to obtain any response to her letters to the Dobson family, faced by the workhouse, Miss Rawlinson came to ask us if we could help her to secure some sort of maintenance from the father of her children. We went into the matter very carefully, and satisfied ourselves that the statements made to us were true. We asked her father to confirm them, and we communicated with some of his friends, who satisfied us that he is an honourable man. But we felt it was a matter which ought not to be made public if it could be avoided. We were told that Mr. Dobson belonged to a family highly respected in Nottingham, and we felt that it would be cruel to the members of that family, who may have been in no way responsible for the relations between their relative and Miss Rawlinson, if the facts were made public. Accordingly we wrote to Mr. A. T. Dobson saying that Miss Rawlinson had called upon us, that she had no wish to molest his brother, but that she was absolutely penniless, and she thought she had the right to ask that at least 15s. a week, which the law would give her if she applied to the police-court, should be settled upon her for the partial support of herself and her children. We suggested that Mr. Dobson should inquire into the matter for himself, and if his brother was willing to do what was fair and reasonable in the matter we should not interfere further. In reply to that letter we received the following communication:—

The Yews, Beeston, Notts.

> Dear Sir,—The holidays caused delay in getting an answer to your letter. Will you kindly delay publishing anything on above case until you hear from the lawyer who has it in hand? We are getting him to try and arrange matters and get Mr. W. H. Dobson free from this woman. What he tells us has quite changed our view of the case. We were inclined to be sorry for her at first, as you are. The couple (the lawyer says) are not father and daughter at all, but stand in the same relationship as she and Mr. Dobson. The latter says he can prove the children are not his, or at least is very doubtful, as there were others with her. The pair are well-known to the Brighton police, and are two of a gang of blackmailers and they have had all Mr. Dobson's money for years. He is of course quite willing to pay what the law allows, but she is trying for more.
>
> You understand this is what we have heard from the lawyers. We quite appreciate your asking for our opinion of the matter, and hope you will kindly defer publishing anything until you hear further.—Yours truly,
>
> (Sgd.) A. T. Dobson.
>
> I am writing this for my husband, Mr. A. T. Dobson, as he is not well.

With regard to the offer of 15s. a week, Miss Rawlinson writes to us as follows:—

> A few weeks ago I wrote to Mr. Alfred Dobson and the solicitors asking for 15s. a week, or Mr. Dobson's address, that I might sue him if they would not let me have it without, but both these letters were ignored.

Having regard to the extremely serious character of the charges brought against Miss Rawlinson, we thought it only right to show Mrs. Dobson's letter to her father and herself, and they both denied its allegations. We were not of course content with their denial. We made enquiries from persons to whom Mr. Rawlinson referred us, and who had known him most of his life. They spoke of him as an honourable man, with a stainless record. As to the allegation of the letter that Miss Rawlinson is not Mr. Rawlinson's daughter, we have seen a copy of her birth certificate, which puts the matter beyond all doubt. And as to the allegation that the Rawlinsons are well known to the Brighton police, the Chief Constable of Brighton informs us that he knows nothing whatever against them.

As to Mr. Dobson's denial of the paternity of the children, we have before us various letters from him to Miss Rawlinson. We will content ourselves with quoting from one, written just before the birth of one of the children, and addressed to "My Darling Nelly."

> I cannot bear to think after all your busy doings to be lying down all by yourself away from everyone with despair at your heart at a critical time like the present when all ought to be going well. Cheer up, darling. Come out and meet me and we will go where you like.

As to the fowls and furniture, Miss Rawlinson says the poultry farm was taken on behalf of herself and her children, and this is borne out by a letter to her from Mr. W. H. Dobson, dated November 1st, 1910:—

> It is much colder here than down at Lyminster. I will say nothing about feeding the chickens, as your father tells me he gave you all instructions, which do not neglect *as it is your all in all for the future, when I am gone.*

We thought it right to inform Mrs. Dobson that we had communicated her statements to Mr. and Miss Rawlinson, and this is the letter we received in reply:—

Yew Cottage, Beeston, Notts.

> Dear Sir.—I am amazed to hear you showed my letter to Mr. Rawlinson. I thought I was writing a privileged confidential letter to an honourable gentleman.—Yours truly, (Sgd.) A. M. Dobson.

And there the matter ends so far as Mrs. Dobson is concerned. As to the "privileged" letter, we have only this to say, that there was nothing in our communication or in Mrs. Dobson's reply, to suggest that the correspondence was confidential, nor can we admit the validity of Mrs. Dobson's complaint. Does she think she is entitled to bring the most odious charges against an honourable man, and to make them under the privilege of secrecy? We had written to her husband, as representing the family, to put pressure upon Mr. W. H. Dobson to make some sort of provision for the girl he had ruined and the children he had brought into the world. We did not suggest any extravagant settlement. We made it plain that the girl was willing to accept the 15s. a week that a police-court would give her. We only asked him to put her into communication with his brother, or at any rate to use his influence to bring about a settlement on the lines indicated. And what is the answer to the letter written by us in the sincere desire to settle quietly and privately this most painful matter? It is to bring the foulest charges against a man who has a perfectly clean record, and to heap insult upon a young woman whose only fault is that she trusted too implicitly to Mr. W. H. Dobson's honour. We trust the publication of the sad story may assist to bring her some reparation.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

SEE PAGE ii. OF COVER.

THE SALVATION OF SALVATIONIST SHELTERS.

AN ELOQUENT PLEA.

We make no apology for a few extracts from a long letter which impressed us with the stamp of truth :—" Have you ever thought of giving up your night's rest in a cosy bed with warm material covering your body and go down to the Thames instead and see the poor half-starved and half-naked creatures huddled together on the cold hard pavement trying to keep themselves warm with the rain beating against the exposed bodies? I gave up my rest to see if it was true. I find it is as true as God is my maker. . . . The first creature I came across was a poor girl only 19 years of age who was crying with hunger; so I asked her what was the matter, and this is what she told me :—' I have been to the Salvation Army to get a shelter and a little food, but on getting there they asked me how much I had got and I told them three-pence halfpenny, so they would not let me in but told me to go and earn the other halfpenny and then I would be admitted.' So I gave her the halfpenny, and a shilling besides to enable her to get a little food the next day. Well, the next night I followed the same plan and I see a lad of 16 years of age without friend, mother or father, who was compelled to leave his lodging owing to no work and being unable to pay for his lodging, and this was what he was driven to. He could not get a shelter owing to no money to pay for it, so I gave him a shilling to help him to get a little food and a shelter, and he thanked me with all his heart; and the tears came into his eyes, which made my blood boil in their veins to think of such humbugs and hypocrites who turned the lad adrift at that young age. The third night I went there again and I see a poor old mother, her age was 76, trying to battle against the storm. Just think if it was your own mother, what would you do? I did not stop long this night as sleep was going against me, but I rewarded her the same as the lad and the girl. Now what I want to ask you is if we cannot find a place to cover the poor dear creatures and help them on in the struggle for life. Cannot we raise a public fund to enable us to take a big hall to give these people shelter and food without charging the poor creatures any money whatsoever? Think if it was your own mother or father, or son or daughter, or sister or brother. I ask you to help me, then you will be able to say on your death-bed, ' Thank God, I have left the world a little better than when I came into it.' We have a home for dogs which have strayed away, but not for human beings."

We are, of course, all in favour of providing homes for the homeless, but our eloquent correspondent does not, perhaps, quite realise the difficulty of preventing all the subscriptions being grabbed by fat secretaries and other self-seeking philanthropists.

ST. MICHAEL'S FLAMING SWORD?

THE "HIGHT" OF IMPUDENCE.

The following polite communication was forwarded to a lady who had at one time sufficient belief in Spiritualism to advance considerable sums of money to a Brighton "circle," but whose waning faith has now caused her to make pressing enquiries regarding repayment :—

> Sinful and wicked woman,—At a circle here last evening we were commanded by our President, the Lord Prince Michael Archangelus, to write at once and inform you that unless you instantly and entirely cease your most blasphemous and malicious persecution of his mission and its members, he himself will deal with you and strike you down. It is with difficulty he has been persuaded not to do so already by the other Archangels. His anger is burning hot against you, but he is now giving you this one more chance, by a material warning, which you will do well to heed. Please take note that this is not an earthly threat, but a message sent to you straight from our President, the Lord Prince Michael. From now, if you do not cease your wickedness, we have but to watch, stand aside and look on, while *he* deals with you. *Be warned, ere it is too late.*
>
> LAURA A. HIGHT, *Deaconess.*
>
> St. Michael's Mission,
> 61, Preston Drive, Brighton.
> *May 2nd*, 1911.

THROWN ON THE HUMAN SCRAP HEAP.

A WORD WITH THE ADMIRALTY.

In the year 1896 a healthy young lad, named Withers, joined the Royal Marines. After serving 9½ years he met with an accident while in the execution of his duty on board H.M.S. *Blenheim*. He was sent to the Royal Naval Hospital, Chatham, on December 20th, 1905. After remaining there two months he was invalided as unfit for further service. He was granted the magnificent pension of 6d. per day for two years. After leaving Chatham, the " cast off " went to a London hospital, where his leg was placed in plaster of paris. Unable to work, and without means of subsistence beyond the miserable 6d. a day, the man was compelled to seek the seclusion of the workhouse infirmary. There it was found necessary to amputate the leg. Whilst in the workhouse he was visited by an Admiralty doctor. This gentleman seems to have had some compassion, for in the course of a few days the one-legged man received notification from the Admiralty that his pension had been increased to 1s. a day for two years, after which time he was to undergo " new survey." Why, goodness only knows. There was no doubt about the man having only one leg left. Probably the Admiralty thought he might possibly be able to grow another in two years ! The two years terminated in June, 1908, and our friend with the stump went up for " re-survey." One leg was still absent. There was no doubt about it. What did the Admiralty do ? Knocked him off 6d. a day, for not parading a complete man ! In other words, his pension was ordered to be at the rate of 6d. a day for three years. The three years expire on June 30th. Naturally he has applied for renewal of pension in view of the fact that he is still minus a leg, lost in the service of his country. The reply of the Admiralty—and to us it is an amazing one—is that the man cannot have his pension renewed. By what means the Admiralty have come to this decision we are at a loss to understand. Finally, we may state that the man is married, with two children to support. He is in possession of the Somaliland medal. The matter cannot, of course, rest here. We advise the man to see the member for the constituency in which he lives, and place the whole case before him.

PLAGUE SPOTS ON THE THAMES.

APATHY OF THE PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITY.

We have recently been having a look round some of the premises under the control of the Port of London Authority, and we have no hesitation in stating that they are a menace to the health of London. Their latrines provided for seamen in port and dock labourers are a disgrace. They consist of old wooden structures with a cross bench, and a trough underneath. These are supposed to be cleared once a day. The contents are buried only a few yards away. There is no system of drainage, although within a short distance of human habitations. These latrines are simply alive with rats, and in the summer time swarm with flies. Now all this filth is quite close to quays in which are vessels discharging their cargoes of frozen meat, cheese, butter, and other food stuff. As regards some of the river craft on which the Customs watchers have to do duty, language could not adequately describe their filthy condition. This state of things exists only by virtue of the fact that the Port of London's premises are closed to the general public, and it is high time something were done in the matter.

BIBLIOLATROUS DUPES.

AN AREA DODGE.

The National Bible Supply, which is run by a rascal named Hamlin, has now removed its address to 184, Aldersgate Street, E.C. He goes about foisting expensive Bibles on unsuspecting servants by telling them that the books are a gift from the King in connection with his Coronation, and that the trifle of £2 or £3 which he demands is merely a contribution towards the binding. Some public authority ought to take up cases of this kind and revise all such iniquitous bargains.

ARMED MASSES IN THE EAST.

CHINA FACING BRITAIN FOR BURMA'S GOLD.

By W. Gray Nixon.

"China will Absorb the East."

How far the East is from the West in many matters other than those of a geographical character, and yet how close these globular divisions are in others, cannot be thoroughly understood except by those who have lived and moved in the two hemispheres. Great events may be shaping far-away Eastwards which threaten even the heart of our Empire; but how little is known at home of the extent of these movements, their causes and the possible issue of them!

What does the man in the street, for instance, know of the events which, at the present moment, appear to be so rapidly shifting towards the stern, cruel arbitrament of war in the Shan States—a combination of circumstances which may ere long find Britain in deadly grapple with the greatest of Oriental Powers? What does England know of the thousands of British troops that are to-day standing to arms on the northern frontier of Upper Burma waiting with confident expectancy the great Chinese raid that has for so long been threatened? Let the story be told.

The Shan States.

The Shan States are now included in that part of British India known as the Province of Burma. They lie amongst the hills dead north of Upper Burma and immediately face the eastern Chinese frontier. Under British protection, the Shan States are actually administered by chieftains, locally known as sawbas; albeit they are directed by English political officers. Owing to their warlike tendencies, which, according to Eastern custom, strangely mingle with a strong religious fanaticism, they have to be carefully handled, and are allowed a large amount of latitude in the observance of their quaint customs and religious rites. Ethnologically they are of Mongolian and Indo-Chinese origin; their language, habits and dress are closely akin to the Chinese and, although generally submissive to a British protectorateship, they sentimentally and characteristically lean towards their Mogul brethren. Many a time and oft bands of them have joined with Chinese raiders (generally ex-Chinese soldiers or deserters) in daring looting depredations, and have occasioned much trouble to the Indian police, whose duty it has been to hunt them down. Of late, whilst these plundering incursions have not been so frequent, it has been noticeable that a deeper and much stronger spirit has possessed a large number of them. Openly quiet, they are known to be in perfect sympathy with the Chinese hordes who are stationed just beyond them, and who, regarding the Shan States as being geographically theirs, have for a long time threatened a wholesale invasion. It is this natural kinship between these two Eastern peoples which constitutes the danger.

Rich Mineral Deposits.

For years the Shan States have been principally noted for their agricultural and teak productions; but careful prospecting by British surveyors and mining engineers has discovered the presence of rich mineral deposits. Companies to exploit these finds have been and are being formed, and mining operations are now extensively carried on, China the while looking on with rage and chagrin. A crisis, critical and swift, arose with the discovery of large seams of gold, and the seizure of land by the British Gold Dredging Company has brought a bad sore to a blistering fester. Chinese avarice and impatience seem to have reached their bursting points, and swarms of these yellow Orientals have for several months past been congregating on the frontier and threatening an armed raid right amidst the mining operations, which have been mainly carried on just beyond Myitkina on the Upper Irrawaddy, a point now reached by the Burma Railway *via* Mandalay, the erstwhile Burmese capital. With the spread of the dredging and other mining work, and with the likelihood of it reaching right into the heart of the Salwin basin, which forms the centre of the Shan States, the possibility of the realisation of immense revenues accruing from the mineral resources in these remote parts of the Empire is naturally fomenting a jealous spirit amongst these peculiar Eastern people.

British Troops Massing.

The greedy eyes of the Chinese have been met with the stern gaze of the British Burma Government, and efforts to check any possible Oriental advance have been proceeding apace for some months. Acting with the strictest secrecy and utmost quietness, British and Indian troops have been leaving week by week various parts of Burma for Myitkina, where they are lying in readiness for any eventuality which may arise. British artillery and infantrymen, Sikhs, Sepoys, and Goorkhas, are amongst the details which comprise this vigilant force, and when the writer left Mandalay only some six weeks ago, no fewer than 10,000 men belonging to the Indian Army were under arms and stationed near the threatened area. So serious is the outlook, although careful pains have been made to hide the real facts of the position, that the "leave" of a large number of officers—particularly those stationed in Fort Dufferin, Mandalay—has been cancelled and the transport department in Upper Burma has been working night and day in order that all necessary supplies shall be hurried to the front (which is some four hundred miles north of King Theebaw's former capital) with the least possible delay. Further, men are being held in readiness at Maymyo, the highest and most northerly military station in Burma, which stands some 3,000 feet above sea level, about twenty miles beyond Mandalay, and the outlook at the moment creates, beyond all doubt, a most dangerous situation. To many who are on the spot, the eventual outbreak of hostilities is regarded in the light of a foregone conclusion, and it is only the armed readiness of the British, coupled with the restraining influence of Chinese leaders, that can prevent an early clash of arms.

The Chinese in Burma.

China beyond all doubt has cast a greedy eye upon Burma and its upper reaches. Just as she has got her clutches on Singapore and the Straits Settlement, so she is gradually fastening her claws upon the Land of Pagodas. A decade or so ago there were comparatively few Chinese in Burma; now in Rangoon alone there are, I would estimate, at least 50,000 of them, and with that peculiar masonic kinship which seems to bind them together, they have formed themselves into a complete colony, with the result that a large section of Rangoon resembles rather a small Peking than a portion of a Burmese city. Their tireless energy and wonderful commercial acumen make them formidable opponents in the world of trade.

The Shans as Fighters.

For the most part Buddhists like the Burmans and Shans, they meet on the common ground of faith; they naturally mingle well with the happy-go-lucky, lazy, apathetic Burmans, whose positions they are fast securing for themselves, and, marrying largely as the men do into Burmese families, they are gradually obtaining a hold over the Province which will, in course of time, develop into a band of iron. The Chinaman is a wonderful and astute person—and beyond all doubt the greatest Oriental force to be reckoned with in the East. It is for this reason that any outbreak of war arising out of the presence of gold and other minerals in the Shan States, would prove a lamentable disaster. For Britain would assuredly find trouble both within and beyond her territory. The Shans, sturdy fighters and treacherous allies, would certainly flock to the Chinese standard; the Chinese domiciled in Upper and Lower Burma, would not look on passively where their own countrymen were concerned, and there are thousands of prowling Burmans who, to an artfully raised cry of "Buddha," would clutch their dhas and join in a fanatical crusade against the British.

The Yellow Peril.

The East, both near and far, is full of strange and interesting problems, many of which are within easy range of solution. But the greatest enigma amidst a mass of complications is China. Rejuvenated, as she is fast becoming, she bids fair to become the outstanding Oriental Power, and the wave of Westernism which is now mingling with their old Eastern methods threatens to aggravate the situation. The "Yellow Peril" is a growing cloud in the horizon of Commercialism; and the danger of the future lies not so much in any martial strength China may cultivate, but in her ability not only to meet the European in business on level terms, but to beat him into the bargain. That is why there are so-called wise prophets who say that the day will come when "China will absorb the East"—commercially. *Audaces fortuna juvat!*

MERSEY IMPOSITION ON THE KING AND QUEEN.

A WORD ABOUT THE "REVEREND" LLOYD JONES.

BY OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.

The following appeared in the *Liverpool Courier* of June 6th :—

WORK IN BIRKENHEAD SLUMS.

ROYAL GRATIFICATION.

The Rev. H. Lloyd Jones, the superintendent of the Gospel News Mission, Birkenhead, who for the past ten years has worked on the Cheshire side amongst the poor, and previously in Liverpool, Bootle, and other places, completes the twenty-first year of his ordination this month.

Amongst other things, Mr. Jones has been instrumental in giving upwards of 250,000 free meals, conducting upwards of 5,000 various kinds of meetings, and has collected himself over £3,000. He was recently presented by his committee with a valuable testimonial from subscribers and friends in recognition of his services in the slums.

On behalf of his committee and himself, Mr. Jones recently wrote, congratulating their Majesties upon their approaching Coronation, and at the same time informing them of the nature of his work in the slums, and has received the following communication (the last sentence of the letter being purely personal) :—

Windsor Castle, 11th June, 1911.

DEAR SIR,—I am commanded to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst., and in reply to thank you and those who associated themselves with you for your kind congratulations to their Majesties. The King and Queen are always glad to hear of any effort to improve the moral and social position of our less fortunate fellow creatures. . . .

Yours very faithfully,

CLIVE WIGNAM.

I first came in touch with Lloyd Jones in 1892, at Cardiff, where he was working as a joiner, and where he claimed to have been ordained a clergyman of the Reformed Church of England by "Bishop" Baker. This was repudiated by the Bishop.

In 1896, Lloyd Jones and his wife kept an alleged orphanage in Newland Street, Liverpool. Here they were prosecuted for illtreating a child. Owing to conflicting evidence they were discharged. They, however, closed the place and disappeared from Liverpool.

In 1901 Jones opened a mission hall in Seacombe. He had numerous people going about collecting funds. He left these premises owing a considerable amount for rent.

The Old Sessions House, Seacombe, was his next capture, his *modus operandi*, as usual, being to send out collectors, pocket all he could, and then clear out.

From Seacombe he went to Birkenhead. The committee of the "Emanuel Free Episcopalian Church" appointed Jones its "pastor," and authorised him to collect money. What money he managed to get hold of goodness only knows, but as he failed to account for several sums of considerable amount, he was dismissed his "pastorship."

In the year 1904 he established himself at 98 and 100, Price Street, Birkenhead. He called this place a "Mission," sent out collectors, as on previous occasions, and as usual left after a year's tenancy, owing rent and a considerable amount for tradesmen's bills.

At this time things were becoming rather too warm for him on the banks of the Mersey, so he cleared off to Bootle, where he took premises at 67, Cambridge Road, at a rental of 8s. 6d. a week. This cottage he named "The Parsonage," and his notepaper was headed the same. While in Bootle he engaged the Lincoln Rooms, altering the name into Lincoln Hall. Here again he practised his old tactics—sending out collectors, and eventually clearing off.

Lloyd Jones is a past-master in the art of diddling his creditors, and he has appeared many times in the County Court. Here is what Deputy Judge Strachan said of him in April, 1907, and the irony of the whole thing is that it is reported in the *Liverpool Courier*, the very paper which has now been deluded into puffing this charlatan! The following remarks will be found in its issue of April 20th, 1907 :—"The debtor (Lloyd Jones) was carrying on in the guise of religion a business to cheat his creditors. He wished the public to understand the kind of people who were preying upon them."

Now there is no doubt that the astute Lloyd Jones will use the letter from their Majesties for begging purposes. Moreover, such a communication will inspire confidence, and he is likely to handle large amounts of money. I think I have given ample proof that he is not a person to be trusted.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CXLVIII.

A VERY SAD CASE.

We have received the following appeal from a gentleman who has satisfied us of the genuineness of its statements. It speaks for itself, and we will not attempt to add to its force by any words of our own, save that we shall be happy to forward any moneys that may be sent to us on behalf of this sorely tried woman :—

Of the many calamities of life, that of a woman left destitute (with young children to support) by her husband stricken down by insanity is assuredly one of the most terrible. It is especially terrible if she be not of the working-classes, and physically, and by training, unable to turn her hand to rough, supporting work.

Here is a case, known to me for a long time, of one, who, with much privation, has supported herself, and her two little children (aged seven and nine), for the space of six years during her husband's sojourn in a lunatic asylum at Manchester. (The other child, aged twelve, is in St. Anne's School, Redhill.) She has been able to earn very little, by precarious and intermittent dressmaking, and has been kept from starvation, or the workhouse, only by the assistance of friends. She has endeavoured to obtain work in teaching French, which she speaks perfectly. (Formerly, before his brain failed, her husband was employed by shippers at Boulogne.) She has just been notified that her husband is ready to be discharged from the asylum, cured. She has not been able, through inability to pay the fare from London, to see him for three years; and she is without a halfpenny to go to Manchester to receive him now. Nor could she provide him with the outfit of clothing necessary on his quitting the asylum. She is harassed by thoughts of the difficulty of his obtaining employment.

I vouch for the genuineness of this case. I invite inquiries into it. I appeal on its behalf to the readers of JOHN BULL, who have already done so much to salve many victims of grievous and unmerited misfortune.

I enclose the name and address of this poor lady. My motives in asking you not to publish them, unless necessary, will be readily understood.

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named :

CXXIX.—"Two English Roses," 1 dollar; "A White Man," 5s.

CXLI.—M. B., 1s.; A. E. J. C., 2s. 6d.; J. F. G., 1s.

CXLII.—E. B., 5s.

CXLIII.—E. B., 5s.

CXLV.—L. D. C., 5s.; "Soldier," 2s.; H. D. C., 5s.; "A Poor Man," 2s.; "Yarn Agent," 2s. 6d.

CXLVI.—"Maverdos," 2s.; "Central London," 6d.; H. D. C., 5s.

CXLVII.—"Honest Freemason," 5s.

PITY THE POOR EDITOR!

ANOTHER GEM FROM OUR LETTER BAG.

"A socialist and atheistic lecturer came to me, said he was from you, wanted to know how to make bombs. He had the brokers in for rent at his residence. I wrote to you some time ago, he said, and of course I did. The Roman Catholics and the Church people also are inquisitive, and I am writing a book on Ancient Egyptian Religion (Primative). All seem anxious to know the meaning of the Scarab and Ra the mid-day sun. I believe you are not interested in the Bug and Blister. Some time ago I bought a Royal London Assurance book. It was £3 worth of business. I gave £50 for it. There was a conspiracy to get hold of as much property as possible. I dropped into a trap. The whole system of death penny business is iniquitous. All I simply want is to be let alone with a fire to look after my poor Ma. If you get a lot of questionable people in your league annoying others it is unworthy of your life's mission. No time to write more."

JOHN BULL'S BIOSCOPE.

A series of Bioscope views, depicting how JOHN BULL and *Mrs. Bull* are produced, is being shown in various towns and cities on the cinematograph of the "John Bull Entertainments." To-day (Thursday) the car will be in Slough (Osmond's Meadow, back of Skating Rink); Friday, Hounslow (White Bear Fair Ground); and readers and their friends in the districts should not fail to see these well-known periodicals "in the making."

STATE INSURANCE: HOW TO WORK IT.

By THOMAS GOOD.

(We must not be taken as identifying ourselves with all the statements of our contributor.)

With Mr. Lloyd George's scheme failing to stand the test of intelligent scrutiny, it again becomes necessary to discuss more practical methods of mitigating the horrors and tragedies of poverty, and of dealing with those acute and appalling social problems which have for so long been trifled with by statesmen of both the big parties. It seems that we must start afresh At any rate, the Lloyd George scheme is much worse than useless.

The last lingering hope that this measure might be sufficiently amended to make it decently passable, and that something substantial might be done for the most helpless and needy victims of our cruel industrial system within the lifetime of the present Parliament, was destroyed when the author of this Bill went to Birmingham a few days ago, and, proving himself incapable of meeting criticism, answering questions, and allaying the fears raised, was obliged to make his speech a diatribe of brag, bunce, bluster, bunkum, and brass, spiced with exaggeration! For example, he told his audience that everybody came into this scheme, young and old, that there were benefits for all, when, as a matter of fact, men over 65 are excluded.

Lloyd George Tyranny.

A scheme of compulsory insurance should be, as far as possible, universal in its scope, equitable in its law, sound in its finance, simple in its administration, and elevating in its effects. With full knowledge of the special conditions of our own country, and with the example of Germany's scheme to guide us, there is no reason why these desirable principles of equity and simplicity and beneficence should not be embodied in our scheme from the very beginning. But not one of them is to be found in Mr. Lloyd George's Bill, and the spectacle of nearly all schools of thought, from crusted Toryism to Socialist Radicalism, welcoming this measure before examining it, or understanding it, almost makes one despair of British politics. However, thoughtless praise has given way to considered criticism, and criticism is developing into hostility. The more the measure is examined the less it is liked, even by its supporters, and when it is thoroughly understood the scheme and its author will be scorned. This scheme is so far removed from what we were promised; it is so different from what Mr. Lloyd George even to-day has the cheek to tell us it is; it so far interferes with things which most people do very well for themselves; it so encroaches upon the splendid activities of our most worthy institutions; it so overlaps with the very best work of our public health authorities, friendly societies, and trade unions; it so places practical men and experienced associations under the dominance of a new army of official novices; it so endeavours, at great cost and by round-about methods to provide for those already provided for, while at the same time it leaves the poorest of our poor unprovided for, that the scheme is almost too rotten to be criticised with calmness or courtesy. Yet this is the measure we are invited to rush through Parliament without adequate discussion, and impose upon the nation without demand, mandate, or any reference to the will of the people. Here is a Bill introducing a new principle, changing the relationship between man and man, between employer and worker, between doctor and sufferer, between voluntary societies and the State—admittedly the biggest thing ever introduced as a Government measure—and we are asked to accept it without adequate Parliamentary or public consideration. We must not embark upon an enterprise of this kind until we are reasonably sure it is sound.

How to Do It.

The most satisfactory way of working a compulsory insurance scheme in this particular country would be to take all men, and all women except wives, regardless of age, income, or character, and insure them against every form of real unemployment—sickness, accident, trade depression, and old age—and, in the case of husbands and fathers, against death, in one simple fund, with one simple scale of contributions based upon the earnings, and one simple scale of benefits graded according to economic need, such as the number of a man's dependents, for example. The benefits should be just high enough to stop begging and abolish the need for indiscriminate charity in the case of the lowest classes; and just low enough to make it necessary for the higher classes to continue their membership of friendly societies, trade unions, etc. The scheme should be a truly national and a purely State affair, interfering with no voluntary association whatever, leaving all existing friendly societies and similar bodies independent and free to deal with those able and willing to insure, or provide, for something over and above the moderate aliment of the State scheme. The Old Age Pensions and Workmen's Compensation Acts should be repealed, and the benefits enjoyed under these laws merged in the new scheme, thus bringing all the ordinary risks of life and labour—unemployment, illness, accident, age and death—into one simple, universal, compulsory scheme, without singling out any class, or association, or union, or trade, or profession, or man or woman for special favour or disfavour. And for the administration of this fund, or scheme, we must take all the industrial insurance companies and mutual collecting societies in the country, nationalise them, and convert their agents into civil servants. The agents and officials of these concerns are skilled in their business; they know the people and the people know them; there is hardly a house from Land's End to John o'Groats they do not visit regularly, and these are the men to be employed in the new scheme. Each man could be put in charge of 200 or 300 households, on the locality principle, as postmen deliver letters, they could collect the contributions from workers and employers, and from those who are neither, hand the money in to the offices, pay out the benefits in the people's own homes, and exercise an effective check against fraud and malingering by keeping in personal touch with the workers, their employers, their neighbours, their doctors, their unions and the labour exchanges, guardians, etc. By these means the whole scheme would be made as simple as A B C, half the evils of our present social system would be extirpated, and the other half mitigated.

How the Lloyd George Scheme Does Not Do It.

There is no reason why the men of 65 years of age should be shut out of our so-called national scheme; there is no reason why five-sixths of the unemployed should be shut out; no reason why widows and orphans should be left in the cold; no reason why employers should be put to enormous trouble, friendly societies weakened, and trade unions killed; no reason why the medical profession should be ruined, or our big army of insurance agents deprived of part of their livings; no reason why the new and splendid spirit which now animates our municipal health authorities should be damped and over-ridden; no reason why our poor men's clubs and workshop funds, with all their influences for good, should be starved out; no reason why half the nation should belong to subsidised "approved" societies, and the other half thrust into an inferior Post Office pauper class; no reason why the fortunate and the strong should be aided, while the unfortunate and the weak should be degraded, and mocked in their misery; no reason why one trade should be placed at a premium, and another put at a discount, by State action; no reason why there should be a ridiculous multitude of costly, cumbrous, and chaotic schemes, and funds, and contributions, and benefits—aiding the fortunate, taxing the unfortunate, leaving the worthless and the wastrels free to beg, to impose upon public generosity, and to batten upon charity—while the best and proudest of the poor are left uncovered, to starve in silence and secrecy, without State aid or public assistance. Yet all these things would result from Mr. Lloyd George's preposterous scheme.

BARGAINS IN BOOKS.

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Baroness Orczy's New Novel.

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As already announced, MRS. BULL *has secured the serial rights in Baroness Orczy's thrilling new novel "Fire in Stubble"—a work which, if possible, exceeds in interest "The Scarlet Pimpernel," "I Will Repay," "The Emperor's Candlesticks," and other books of this famous authoress. The first instalment of the story will appear in the issue of* MRS. BULL, *published on Tuesday, July 18th,* AND COPIES SHOULD BE ORDERED NOW.

SEASONABLE SURGERY.

BY REGINALD RIGBY.

The following notes on a few of the best-known operations likely to be performed on unsuspecting patients by American and other specialists, may be of interest to our readers:—

EXCESSIVE SPONDULIC ACCUMULATIONS.

Conduct the patient to the theatre of operation, and the patient, being thoroughly unprepared, the operator and his assistants must first get on the right side of him; after which the barmaid should at once administer the anæsthetic. This process should be repeated until the patient is sufficiently well under the influence. The operator, or one of his assistants, should then introduce the testator quickly, disclosing the legatee in a confused condition. With careful manipulation the spondulic secretions should then be rapidly extracted. Remove the flimsies and cut off at once. The patient will then be relieved, though the wound will probably take some time to heal. This is a favourite operation among the best American specialists.

STUMORS.

The dispersing of these among the gang green is sometimes a difficult operation, and is very painful for the patient, though frequently performed with the aid of anæsthetics. During the operation, the weaker portions of the stumors should be covered as much as possible, as, if exposed too freely, a state of incarceration may rapidly supervene.

FUNGOID GROWTHS ON THE FACE.

These will often yield to Professor Frank Richardson's Finsen Face Treatment, but where this is not efficacious, and the growth is so malignant as to be a menace, operation becomes necessary. To perform this satisfactorily the patient should be carefully placed in a semi-recumbent attitude, after which the operator should produce a saponaceous condition of the affected parts. During this part of the operation the nerves of the patient may be soothed by tonsorialities. When the fungoid excrescence is sufficiently softened it should be carefully scraped, and after removal, the parts should be sprayed with Bay rum. If this operation is successfully performed, the patient's condition should alter for the better immediately.

BUDGETITIS.

The chief symptoms of this ravaging scourge consist of a feeling of super-taxation of the pecuniary forces, and can only be properly relieved by a systematic suppression of the spondulic sources. This operation is fraught with some danger, and it is quite useless to administer a local anæsthetic to either side. In the worse cases, partial or parish relief may sometimes be obtained by repeated applications to the proper quarter.

WATER ON THE SCRIP.

Place some well-bred guinea-pigs on a board, first closing their mouths with ordinary stocks (a fairly large block will suffice). Then, pushing forward the blue blood, carefully wipe out—(*I cannot permit any further details. This is too horrible! I thought it was bloodless surgery.* —ED.)

THE BATTERSEA DOGS' HOME.

WITHDRAWAL OF ASPERSIONS ON THE INSTITUTION.

It will be remembered that in our issue of May 6th we stated that nothing was further from our intentions than to suggest that the "Authorities at the Home do not present correct accounts, and are guilty of conduct in connection with better class dogs which cannot be reconciled with fair dealing." Since then we have had pleasure in publishing a voluntary tribute to the usefulness and general good character of the Home, and we are satisfied that the aspersions originally cast by one of our correspondents upon the Institution, and published in two of our issues, are entirely without foundation, and that the Home is worthy of the support of all lovers of the "friend of man." In the circumstances the Editor is exceedingly sorry that such statements should have appeared in JOHN BULL, and unreservedly expresses regret for the occurrence.

MANXMEN IN REVOLT.

ANOTHER CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS.

(*"It is the boast of Manxmen that the House of Keys had its origin before the House of Commons, and as a matter of fact it is probable that the ancient men of the Isle were gathered round the lord in Tynwald before the Sheriffs of English counties were instructed to send representatives to the King's Court, and centuries before Simon de Montfort gave members to the English boroughs."*—Sir Spencer Walpole.)

If the average citizen was asked to name an island within the British realm, with a population purely British, which is ruled by a Governor appointed, not as elsewhere, for five, or at most for seven years, but for life, and a legislative Council not in part elective, as even in Tobago or the Seyschelles, but nominated for life; with a Representative Assembly, old before the House of Commons was created, which not only has no power to regulate finance, but may not even discuss financial proposals without the prior permission of the Governor; where judges work one day in the week during the term, and then only for three or four hours, and Stipendiary Magistrates have private practice; where more than one-eighth of the revenue is paid to the Imperial Treasury for the purposes of Imperial defence, though there is never a soldier in the island, nor a sailor in its waters—he would have difficulty in giving an answer. And yet this description applies literally to the Isle of Man, within eight hours' travel of London, and almost within sight of Liverpool.

The Worm Turns.

But even in the Isle of Man, where the people seem to be a singularly content and placid folk, the time comes when the inhabitants ask for something like progressive measures, and some years ago a sort of agitation was started in Manxland for reform. It resulted in a petition of the House of Keys to the Home Secretary. This petition prayed that the Governor might be appointed for a term of years, that the legislative Council should be elected by the people, that the consent of the Tynwald Court should be necessary to all changes of expenditure, and that, among other things, the judicial staff should be reduced. The demands of the petitioners were reasonable, and Mr. Herbert Gladstone, who was then at the Home Office, allowed it to be known that he was in favour of meeting the petitioners half way, being "convinced that the time has arrived when the people of the island should elect their own representatives." Unfortunately, soon after this announcement he passed to the Lords and South Africa. The matter then seems to have been dealt with by Mr. Samuel, at that time Under Secretary at the Home Office. He promised to visit the island and look into matters for himself, but did not do so. He, in turn, became Chancellor of the Duchy, and Mr. Winston Churchill though sympathetically inclined, thought Manxland might well wait until the House of Lords had been dealt with. And so, although the petition was presented in February, 1908, and its requests were approved by the Secretary of State whose business it is to deal with Manx affairs, so far as they are dealt with by Downing Street, nothing has been done. The grievances of the island remain with little prospect of redress, and probably things would have been as they are for years to come, but for an incident which ultimately led to the appointment of a Committee under the chairmanship of Lord Macdonell, which has just concluded its sittings at Douglas, and is expected to report in the course of a week or two.

The Governor's Veto.

Under the Constitution of the island no expenditure can be made without the sanction of the Governor. The revenue is almost entirely derived from Customs Dues. Certain fixed payments are made out of it, and there is a surplus, never very large, but usually amounting to some thousands, in the distribution of which Tynwald claims to have a voice. It is a claim that has been evaded by Governors rather than faced, but in January last Tynwald proposed to use a portion of the surplus for advertising purposes. The Attorney-General objected on the ground that the resolution was out of order. There was no question as to the Governor's right of veto. That was admitted. What Tynwald objected to was the antecedent veto. The Governor claims not only the right to veto, but two vetos—a veto before the question is considered and a veto after it is decided, so far as Tynwald can decide it. The Governor says, "I am not content to veto your financial proposals. I will not allow you to make any proposals which I have not previously sanctioned." The position of the House was made plain in the following resolution:—

> The House respectfully claims the right to make and discuss any financial proposal, but in the event of such proposal being carried the House does not question your Excellency's right to then exercise your veto.

To this the Governor answered:—

> In reply to the resolution of the House of Keys of the 31st January, 1911, his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor begs leave to inform the House that the Constitutional principle governing the administration of finances in this island is that expenditure out of revenue cannot be proposed by a Member of the Tynwald Court without the previous sanction of his Excellency.

It will be seen from this that the Governor claims an antecedent right of veto upon all financial proposals in Tynwald. It was not to be expected that the House of Keys would acquiesce in this ruling of the Governor. Now it is true that, whereas former Governors had taken care not to press the claim, Lord Raglan came into the open and threw down his challenge for the House to take up, which it was not slow to do, and it at once appointed a committee to inquire into the whole question. The committee, in due time, reported their decision, from which we quote the following:—

> After careful consideration they (the Committee) recommend the House of Keys to reaffirm the resolution proposed on the 31st January, and to acquaint his Excellency that the House was determined respectfully but firmly to maintain its rights thereby claimed. If his Excellency shall still adhere to the views previously expressed by him, the Committee consider that the proper course for the House to take is to intimate to his Excellency that the House must respectfully decline to proceed with any business in Tynwald until the rights claimed under the resolution passed by the House are recognised.

That was the unanimous decision of the committee. It was with almost entire unanimity approved and adopted by the House, which directed that a petition should be sent to the Governor to convey to him this message:—

> That the Keys must respectfully decline to proceed with any business in Tynwald until the rights claimed in the resolution are recognised.

To it the Governor replied that he had no objection to the House of Keys by way of recommendation discussing financial questions, but that he disputed the right of Tynwald to propose a vote without his previous consent. To that the Committee of the House answered:—

> The House desires to say that the right claimed by the House is that as the Court of Tynwald it has the power of determining the disposal of the surplus revenue for the public purposes of this island, to be approved by the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, this determination could only be arrived at by the vote of the Tynwald Court, any member of which is equally entitled to take such vote, such decisions being subject to his Excellency's veto."

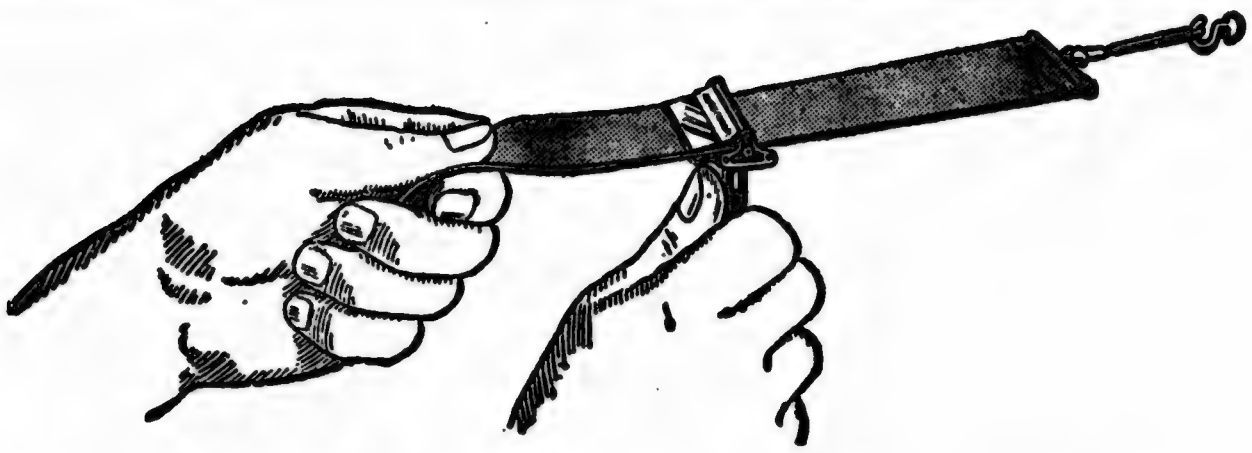
The Governor's reply was as follows:—

> His Excellency desires to add to his memorandum of the 3rd January that, as was fully explained to the deputation from the House of Keys, he recognises the right of any member of the Tynwald Court to propose a resolution or to raise a discussion concerning the expediency or otherwise of expenditure out of revenue provided only that such motion or amendment does not involve an actual vote of money in which case the previous consent of his Excellency is necessary.

The representatives of the people of the Island further claim that the Act of 1866, which may be said to be the Magna Charta of the Isle of Man, supports them in their contention. Here is the Clause of the Customs Act of 1866 upon which the House of Keys relies:—

> The surplus of any of the duties of Customs of the Isle of Man, after deducting the sums hereinbefore directed or authorised to be paid or set aside thereout, or charged thereon, shall be applied for such public purposes of the Isle of Man, to be approved of by the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, as the Tynwald Court shall from time to time determine, the Lieutenant-Governor having a veto upon such decisions.

The whole problem is a question of when the veto of the Governor can be put in force, and to the plain man it seems to have been the clear intention of Parliament that the Representative Assembly of the Island should be entitled to discuss, without first asking permission of the Governor, the disposal of the surplus.



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THIRD CLASS ACCOMMODATION.

A PASSENGER ON THE S.S. "LAURENTIC" PROTESTS.

A passenger on the S.S. *Laurentic*, which left Liverpool for Canada on May 6th, writes to us from Brandon, Manitoba, enclosing copy of a letter addressed to the chairman and directors of the White Star Line and signed by 202 of the third class passengers on the trip, and also a covering communication, which we give below :—

I naturally expected, as did others, that the latest and best boat in the fleet on the Canadian service would be fit to travel in as third class; but such is not the case in the boat named. The illustrations are, to say the least of it, entirely misleading, there being no such things as anything white or attractive about the berths as per illustration. I say, without fear of contradiction, that there was not a single cabin fitted as per the illustration attached. A very few had the wash-bowl, but there was no water for them to wash in, so they were obliged to all go to the common lavatory and wait their turn—nice thing for about 1,000 passengers to be washing in turn in a common place, whereas if water had been put into the rooms as few as had the bowls could have used them.

There was such a cry of disgust and disappointment that I considered it a crying shame to allow such a thing to go unexposed, and rather late as it was I drafted out a letter and read it over to some of the passengers especially in the bunks situated about the holds and lower decks, where water trickled and ran about the floors freely in and about the bunks, and as many as had time attached their signatures, saying how gladly they would assist in the exposure of such a scandalous affair. As you will see by the letter, some paid £6 5s. and some £6 15s., and some even more; but as I cannot vouch for the last, I treat the first two. In the list of sailings the *Laurentic* is listed 5s. higher than the other boats, because she is the fastest and best. Personally I paid £6 5s., the advertised price, but quite a number paid £6 15s., the only reason given was that there had been a big demand for the boat. Example: A strong young fellow informed me that having paid the amount required to secure a berth (*i.e.*, £1), he called at the White Star offices before embarking to pay balance, £5 5s. He was informed there was an additional 10s., as the price had gone up owing to demand; he refused to pay it, and as a result a ticket for the balance, £5 5s., was handed him without any further to do. I found again another case, which this time was a woman with one girl, who was informed of the rise in the booking when she arrived at the office. And she paid it, though she could ill afford it. I quote these two in particular to indicate that there is something doubtful about it. I attach hereto a copy of the letter sent to the directors, also a few signatures of passengers who practically ran after me when they knew what I had in hand. Scores of others could have been had, but I was somewhat hampered in my arrangements by some personal matter (sea sickness). I do hope—as do all the Canadian friends—that you will take this matter up. Not that I will derive any benefit, but the travelling public should be cautioned against being misled, as we certainly were. With these few remarks I close, and leave you, as a lover of fairplay, to do the rest. Awaiting your publication, I will be like others over here and in the old country, on pins and needles.

We cannot, of course, make ourselves responsible for the accuracy of every statement in this letter, but it seems to us to deserve the attention of the directors of the line.

"CHELTENHAM'S CHAMPION."

CLEARING UP THE POSTER MYSTERY.

In reference to the controversy regarding the alleged ban placed upon the exhibition in Cheltenham of posters depicting Miss René Leyton in evening dress, Mr. Agg Gardner, M.P., who energetically took up the cudgels on behalf of the broadmindedness of his constituency, has received a letter from the Mayor of Cheltenham, which seems to clear up the mystery. His Worship says that on April 29th, a lady resident wrote to the Borough Surveyor complaining of the poster (which had presumably, therefore, been exhibited in Cheltenham). The Assistant Surveyor (who had not seen the poster) interviewing the Lessee of the Winter Garden on other business, casually mentioned that a complaint had been received, though making it clear that he had no instructions upon the matter. The Lessee, however, appears to have at once given directions to have the poster covered up.

We are glad that the matter has thus been satisfactorily cleared up.

MILES MILITANT.

THE FAMOUS VEGETARIAN REPLIES TO "JIM CROW."

Mr. Eustace Miles, the vegetarian missionary, has been presenting his compliments to Mr. James Crow and protesting, in answer to a recent article about Fads, that the strictures on the fruit famine at his restaurant were unfounded. He says that neither asparagus nor strawberries were then in season. Well, Jim does not know what Eustace means by season, but he was then buying asparagus for sixpence a bundle and strawberries for a shilling a punnet. Eustace, however, is rash enough to enclose his bill-of-fare in proof of his up-to-date methods. By his menu then let him be judged.

Here is his full array of dessert on June 10th :—

Mixed fruits and nuts.
Mixed nuts or walnuts or cashews.
Roast pine kernels or cashews.
Crystallised ginger or plums or apricots.
Grapes. Bananas.
Apple. Orange.
Preserved orange and lemon slices.

This at a date when our greengrocers' list gives cherries at 6d. and 8d. per lb., strawberries at 4½d. per punnet, and gooseberries at 5d. a quart, not to mention nectarines, peaches, green figs, melons and pineapples for those who do not have to look twice at a shilling!

Now, Jim's contention was that Eustace sacrifices luxury to cheapness, and that he will never cut out the real restaurants if he will not let people have dainties on paying for them. Yet Eustace protests that he is doing his best when, with strawberries at 4½d., he can offer nothing more attractive in the way of fruit than bananas, crystallised ginger, and cashews (whatever they may be).

The same thing applies to his vegetables. Prominence is given to "potatoes cooked by hot air (F.U.)," otherwise without uric acid; "proteid mashed potatoes (N.)" and "chip potatoes," but it is true that he also has roast potatoes, broad beans, spinach, spring cabbage, and, his one and only luxury, asparagus with melted butter or cucumber sauce. This on the 10th of June, when Jim was paying 2½d. for beautiful baby peas, 7d. for darling little carrots, and only a trifle for best English tomatoes!

The fact that Eustace considers his list of salads the finest in London is entirely beside the mark. We need only point out that the humblest little eating-house in Paris would offer an infinitely greater variety. Finally Eustace says: "I think you will agree that we do our best to offer foods and drinks that are appropriate to the time of year." Now, this is really rash. Jim said nothing about drinks. In fact, they are rather a sore subject with him since he became a teetotaler. But as Eustace asks for it, Jim ventures to point out that he offers no drinks at all in the ordinary acceptation of the word—only gingerpop and various waters and such horrors as "tamarind squash" and "bran and raisin tea," and "grape-juice," which turns out to be a very different thing from the juice of the grape as poets hymn it.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

SHAKESPEARE SLIGHTLY ALTERED.

(*The Earl of Rosebery, by his new title, becomes Earl of Midlothian.*)

In name alone my lord is changed, for if
Put to the touch,
A Rosebery by any other name
Will talk as much.

QUAKERS IN THE GAY CITY.

(*Contrary to the expectations of some doubting Thomases, the production of "The Quaker [illegible]" in Paris is a great success.*)

Who'd think a Quaker lassie would
In Paris show her face?
Yet in this situation she's
By no means out of place.

RICARDO.

WE have received a copy of "Proof Positive," a story for Boy Scouts, published by Kodak, Ltd. It is a clearly printed little book, and tells, with the aid of a great number of charming photographs, a tale of great interest to the youngsters. Messrs. Kodak are to be congratulated on their new departure.

Kodak Pictures of your Children

Precious to you now: Priceless in a few years!

Nothing can ever make good your loss if you let the childhood of your children slip by without making a picture-record of their baby ways.

Start to-day a Kodak Baby Book—an album in which the life-story of your children will be told week by week in the simple snapshots that you will take with your own Kodak.

Your Kodak will give you pictures of your children, while they are children—pictures of them as they really are—pictures of them in the tub, in the garden, laughing, romping, pretending—pictures of them in dozens of delightful poses!

Remember, you can learn to use a Kodak in half-an-hour. Any Kodak dealer will show you how simple it is.

Kodak Baby Book—Free

A charming booklet, full of children's pictures! It shows you just the sort of pictures you can take of *your own* children. And it gives you a great many practical hints and suggestions on the fascinating art of child photography. If you love children, don't miss the Kodak Baby Book. Fill up this coupon at once and post to-day to

Kodak Ltd., 57, Clerkenwell, London, E.C.

Coupon

Kodak, Ltd.,
57, Clerkenwell,
London, E.C.

Please send me, free, a copy of "What you can do with a Kodak," as advertised in "John Bull" for July 1st, 1911.

Name.....

Permanent Address.....

.....

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CONJUGAL RELATIONS.

By Jim Crow.

[Mr. James Crow is our Licensed Crank. A brilliant exponent of unconventional ideas—invariably distorted and lacking in perspective; cynical and epigrammatic in expression—he is a journalistic cat amongst the pigeons. We accept no responsibility for his opinions—or his life.]

I thought there must be some reason, apart from the tyranny of spring, why I was growing so weak and pale and fretful. The explanation suddenly occurred to me during a vain search for light literature of an inspiring kind. By my halidom, I said to myself, what a century of centuries it seems since I have beheld a new masterpiece by that philanthropic philosopher, Mr. Peter Keary, the distinguished author of those immortal classics "Go to Hull" and "Gee-up and Gee-whizz." Just at this psychological moment the postman brought me a little book with a familiar cover:—"When Married Life Gets Dull," by William Kaye. (London: C. Arthur Pearson, Limited, 1911. Price 1s net.) The style, the manner, the good-natured familiarity, the indelicate revelation of privacy, all suggested a refined and glorified Peter. Could he, peradventure, be offering me his perfume under another rose? Personally I do not think that Peter, with all his versatility, could ever have reached the high plane of William Kaye, who, as an obvious pupil of the Kearyite school, has already outdistanced his master at the very first lap.

The Matrimonial Vade-Mecum.

Mr. Kaye has solved at one stroke of the stylograph all the problems of married life, and, unlike most empirical discoverers, places his panacea at our disposal for the ridiculous trifle of one shilling per cure. For less than the price of a box of the best soap pills, without even having to pay 1½d. extra for manners to the State, we may all learn in the space of about half an hour how to make matrimony one prolonged honeymoon, how to play the perfect host, how to train children to be ministering angels, even how to deal with that perennial perplexity—"the sniffy woman."

The Bishop's Egg.

It appears that our little friend the Bishop of Ripon recently advocated a training school for matrimony. "To put it in a ribald way," says Kaye, "the Bishop was talking through his hat." I am a little curious to know why it should be hopeless for a bishop to conduct a school of matrimony now that he can purchase Mr. Kaye's manual with the next four coins that he picks out of his offertory. Kaye, however, believes that the school, while perfectly capable of affording instruction in the difficult art of boiling a potato, would be powerless to inculcate tact, patience and forbearance, which he considers essential not only to conjugal relations but even to culinary triumphs. Indeed, he sums up the whole position of the sexes in this profound aphorism: "As a rule a woman gets more excited over a hard-boiled egg than her husband does."

Yolk-Fellows.

This, like most examples of the concentrated wisdom of the ages, is open to controversy among commentators. I assume that a picnic is not in prospect, and that the lady is aiming at the precise consistency which will render the yolk most decorative to her husband's beard. The excitement in that case is due to the humiliation of failure in an enterprise for which greater familiarity should have bestowed a very certain assurance of success. But as the egg would apparently be consumed by the husband in the hurried moments previous to his departure for Henrietta Street, surely the lessons of tact, patience and forbearance will be more especially required by him. Oh! I am forgetting that the philosopher's object is, not so much to enable husbands and wives to live happily ever after as to cope with those menacing moments "when married life gets dull." Piping times of peace can only ensue if the matutinal catastrophe be received with courtly amenities. For the dissipation of dulness it is advisable that the husband, having cracked his shell and made himself acquainted with the stony consistency of the albumen, should seize the rock of offence and, with well-directed aim, score at least a magpie in the eyes or lips of his helpmeet. On such an occasion agility may prove even more useful than tact, patience and forbearance, and we may come to accept the accuracy of the dictum that "as a rule, a woman gets more excited over a hard-boiled egg than her husband does."

Malison as Emollient.

Mr. Kaye (dear me, I nearly wrote Mr. K.) is more particularly disturbed lest the bishop's school should restrict its ministrations to the excitable sex. As he tells us in one of his graceful periods, he should like to chip in with his own humble suggestion: "To make married life run smoothly and pleasantly, why should there not be a school of matrimony where young men are taught how to do up a young woman's bodice at the back with a calm and even temperament? And would it not be a good thing to teach him to say 'Oh, bother!' instead of '* ! ** ! !' when his linen comes home all frayed from the wash?" Of course, the well-trained husband should possess all accomplishments. He would prove a far more useful companion if he were able to turn his hand to hairdressing and dressmaking and an intelligent manipulation of paper patterns. But there is a danger in the multiplication of accomplishments, and he might not even have time to enjoy his hard-boiled egg if he were called upon to unite too many hooks with invisible eyes before starting to sprint for the 8.45 train. As to suitable interjections, I think it is rash of Mr. Kaye to lay down absolute laws. As in the case of nations and their governments, most wives are the recipients of the language they deserve. "Oh bother!" may be far more painful than even so abominable an imprecation as "* ! ** ! !" if it is fired off as an expression of genuine uncharitableness. It is not so much what he says, the poet sings, as the nasty way he says it. The whole subject of malison is, however, so comprehensive that I cannot hope to deal adequately with it in this short paper on conjugal relations. A good round oath may sometimes act as a stimulant, whereas honeyed phrases and oily cajolery are apt to cloy, and certainly afford a very poor palliative "when married life gets dull."

The Kearyite Caress.

This matrimonial encyclopædia is so comprehensive that I must hurry on if I want to complete even a glimpse of the treasures it contains. "Man cannot be the lover always, any more than he can eat eggs and bacon *every* morning for breakfast." Kaye's mind does run on breakfast eggs, does it not? This is one of his many charms. Another philosopher might have hesitated over the obvious comparison of love with eggs and bacon. But I must not interrupt the specialist in amorosity: "He wants a change." Here, if you have not graduated in the Kearyite school with all my diligent devotion, your mind may be running on the fragrant kipper, or the graceful kidney, or the limpid porridge. You may even dream of rapturous endearments, subtle flatteries, long-drawn sighs. You are really very dull pupils, you must guess again. "He wants a change. He wants his palate tickled." Now I think I could not have hit upon a more striking example of the genius of the intuition of Mr. Kaye. Poetry and romance have made even a misogynist like myself aware of the magic of holding hands and stroking brows, and all the rapture of lip-service. But in my wildest dreams, in my most passionate yearning for affection it never occurred to my sluggish brain that I might be inspired to fresh devotion if I opened my mouth after eating eggs and bacon and asked to have my palate tickled. Unfortunately, Mr. Kaye does not tell us enough about the process. Should a feather be used, or does he advise rhythmical titillation with a well-pared nail?

Food Frolics.

You have no idea how difficult it has been to remember, in dealing with this beautiful book, that the author is fighting dullness, not friction or unhappiness. He is himself responsible for this, as some of his advice would undoubtedly militate against liveliness. For instance, he says. "If I were a woman I would not tell my husband 'That is not a nice cut you have given Mrs. Jenkins,' or 'Mr. Jenkins likes a bit off the knuckle.' I should not like Mrs. Jenkins to think I was trying to palm off a second-rate cut on her and hiding the best under the carving-knife for my own use, but I might be mad enough to suggest to Jenkins that if he did not like what he had got he could go entirely without." With such possibilities, how could one of Mr. Kaye's dinner-parties ever be dull? What a wicked act of supererogation to suggest that Mrs. Kaye should be taught to restrain remarks capable of inspiring such repartees!

If Mr. Kaye's married life contains as few dull passages as his book, he must indeed be the most favoured of mortals. Now that I have said so many pretty things about him, I think the least he can do is to invite me to dinner and afford me an opportunity of seeing him spill a pint of scalding gravy on the left leg of his best trousers.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

SEE PAGE II. OF COVER.

OUR REMARKABLE OFFER.

100 FREE HOLIDAYS

ON THE CONTINENT.

A WEEK AT ST. CECILE FOR 100 READERS—ABSOLUTELY FREE

We have made arrangements, in conjunction with *Mrs. Bull*, by which we are able to give our readers the opportunity of spending, at the beginning of September, a delightful holiday, absolutely free of cost, at St. Cecile, a new and charming Continental seaside resort. We intend to defray the travelling, hotel and other expenses of 100 persons, chosen from among the readers of *Mrs. Bull* or JOHN BULL for one week and shall ask for nothing in return. All you have to do is to qualify for the free holiday on easy conditions. The 100 holidays we shall give away in pairs, a plan which will commend itself to everyone as it will enable a husband to have the company of his wife, and others the society of their particular friends.

This is a remarkable offer, and the most generous scheme ever placed before the readers of a periodical. The expense entailed will be enormous, but that is our affair. We want 100 readers to enjoy the holiday of their lives, and we shall see that the recipients of our 100 free trips have it.

FREE RAILWAY FARES,

FREE BOAT TICKETS.

FREE HOTEL AND BOARD.

A week's stay on the Continent, with all the attractions of a French watering-place, is an experience everyone would anticipate with eagerness, but as our offer is limited to 100 readers, we have decided to make the selection with the aid of an easy competition—well within the capacity of all. Particulars of this are given below. As already indicated, we shall pay for everything from the departure from London till the return home a week later. The only exception will be wines. But apart from that everything will be free—and, moreover, we intend to treat our guests right royally. We shall provide the travellers with First-class Railway Tickets and First-class Passes for the Boat. At the hotel at St. Cecile the conditions will be the same—Free and First-class. We recommend all our readers to peruse the conditions below and to determine to be our guests at the beginning of September. Everyone has an equal opportunity, and a week's stay on the Continent, with all expenses paid, is well worth trying for. Tell all your friends about this Free Holiday Scheme and enlist their support. A little steady canvassing should place you among the fortunate 100.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO TO WIN A FREE HOLIDAY.

In each week's issue of *Mrs. Bull* and JOHN BULL will be found a Voting Coupon. All you have to do is to collect as many coupons as possible between now and August 5th—three weeks before the holiday commences. You can vote for yourself and also get your friends to vote for you. BUT AN IMPORTANT POINT TO NOTE IS THAT THE COUPONS MUST BE TAKEN EQUALLY FROM *Mrs. Bull* AND JOHN BULL. The 50 readers who secure the most votes between now and August 5th will each be presented with two free holidays at St. Cecile. Start collecting the voting coupons to-day, but do not send them in until August 5th.

ST. CECILE AND SOME OF ITS ATTRACTIONS.

St. Cecile is a charming spot in the Department of Pas-de-Calais, about ten miles from Boulogne—whence it is reached in about half-an-hour by rail, the place being practically on the main line to Paris. It is thus within 90 minutes' journey from Folkestone, 4 hours from London, and 3 from Paris. For 12 miles stretch broad, firm sands—which vary in width according to the tide and season, from a quarter of a mile to a mile. The sand is nearly as hard as a high road, and absolutely clear of seaweed, pieces of chalk and stones. The Channel Coast and Mediterranean Freehold Resorts Company which is opening up the place—course, fully alive to the value atural asset, and proposes to make a start in sporting matters by constructing sand yachts, an experimental vessel being already in hand. There are no cliffs to endanger children, but a quaint and interesting background is provided by numerous soft sandhills, which though of really inconsiderable height, at a short distance give a very strong reminiscence of Switzerland. Upon this charming site is the Hotel, containing some 120 bedrooms. A handsome Casino is already built. It does not cater for the gambler, but seeks its *clientele* among the ordinary rational citizens. The rooms are spacious and well lighted. A fine concert hall is attached where high-class entertainments and dances are given.

Free Holiday Voting Coupon.

Please register my vote on behalf of—

.....

.....

(Fill in here the name and address of any person for whom you are voting.)

.....

.....

(Readers may vote for themselves if they wish.)

OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS AND TELEGRAM.

To C. F. G. Masterman, Esq., ex-M.P. for North West Ham.

DEAR MR. WHITEWASHER,—As I have said in another column, I am not really sorry that you have been unseated. I admit it is bad luck, but if you *will* have these cheap, imported agents—and if you *won't*—or can't—look after the business part of your election—well, you must take the consequences. Personally, I do not think the House of Commons will greatly miss you. I have watched your career ever since, in the days of the Education Bill debates—after rehearsing your speeches, on the Terrace, with Sir Charles Dilke—you first made your little mark; and I have sat and smiled as you followed up your tiny triumph by a series of innocuous barks—always minus the bite!—at the Government, until you developed into a full-fledged saponaceous Under-Secretary. I don't like hitting a man whilst he is down, however, and therefore I defer several observations which I am desirous of addressing to you until the Party Whips have found you a "safe" seat. At the moment of writing, there does not appear to be any very keen competition for you—but they *do* say that, if necessary, another Peer is to be created, in order that you may become what the Prime Minister calls the "freely chosen representative" of his present constituency. Just one word of advice. Before accepting any "invitation"—I think that is the correct word—be sure to ask this question—What sort of branch has the John Bull League? You see, my dear friend, the members are such an energetic and pugnacious set of chaps—and they take a strong view of that Akbar Reformatory business! They also entertain decided opinions of the capacity of an Under-Secretary of State who allows gross irregularities and muddling to take place, unsuspected, under his very nose. 'Nuff said.

JOHN BULL.

To Provost Duncanson, Alloa, Scotland.

MY DEAR PROVOST,—It is not my intention to say very much about the dispute between the Alloa Town Council and the Alloa Coronation Committee on the attempt of the latter to permit the poor people of the town to have a glass of beer at their Coronation dinner, especially as you ruled that the contrary decision of the Town Council must prevail. As a Councillor pointed out, the Council had arranged a "cake and wine banquet" for themselves, and it would have been obvious humbug and hypocrisy if they had refused the present of Alloa ale offered by Messrs. Younger. I suppose, by the way, none of them was discovered by the policeman on the beat, reeling home as a result of indulgence?

Be good enough to present my compliments to Mr. A. J. Mullan, Mr. J. M. Reid, and Mr. Ford McKenzie, the three representatives of the Town Council who withdrew from the Coronation Committee in disgust and horror at the decision of the Council, and say I trust that they are as little the worse for their ginger pop as these poor people are for their glass of ale. If it has not yet reached Alloa, by the way, you might tell these gentlemen the story of the thirsty cyclist who, during the recent heat, happened into a village in which there was not a single hostelry. He did, however, find a shop where the natives were drinking copious draughts of home-made ginger beer. "Anybody died here recently?" he asked the man behind the counter when he had recovered from his amazement. "No, sir," was the reply, "but theere wor two men heear t'other neet who bust."

JOHN BULL.

To Sir Arthur Markham, M.P., below the Gangway.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—Am I dreaming, or "is visions about"? Surely *you* have not been muzzled? Surely you are not the same man as he who in days gone by—but not so very long ago—girded at the Government for trafficking in honours, and all the rest of it? I must look up a speech of yours which I seem to remember hearing when my friend Hugh Lea was in the House, hammering away at these things! What with Dalziel and Byles and yourself all knighted, there is now only poor Pickersgill left, of the old Radical wing—and I notice that *he* has recently moved his seat nearer to the Treasury Bench! What a game it is, isn't it?

JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. W. Woodall, Vicar at St. Francis's, Feniscliffe, Blackburn.

REV. FRIEND,—Since you last wrote in your parish magazine I trust the collections for the Choir Fund have improved; if not, perhaps you will consider whether it would be advisable to beg on behalf of the Zenana Mission or the Society for the Prevention of Profanation among the Orang Outangs. It must be distressing in the extreme that the only result of the recent Choir Sermons in your church, from two large congregations, was that 263 persons gave one penny each and eight persons gave a half-penny each. The conspicuous dearth of three-penny bits is apparently due to the shortage of silver, and yet, dear friend, let us be thankful that the worst never happens, for I have known cases where my reverend friends have sown choir sermons and have reaped buttons. You tell your people that they "can always find money for amusements, picnicking, etc.," and no doubt this is quite true. Oh, dear friend, if your sermons for the Choir Fund were an amusement or a picnic, what a harvest there would be! I beg you not to despair, however, for the darkest clouds may have a silver collection behind them, and when they break, may you be about with the box.

JOHN BULL.

To the Presiding Magistrate, Cannock.

SIR,—You are reported as having told an applicant for the transfer of a licence, new to the business, that "he looked respectable, and that you hoped he would keep respectable, but that what he was going to do did not tend to add to people's respectability." This is another instance of that insufferable impertinence which so many magistrates in these days regard as the special and peculiar privilege of their position. Even an aquapuritan on the bench is not relieved from the common obligation to keep a decorous tongue in addressing men of good character. It is not a reason for insulting them that they are publicans, and it is nothing less than an outrage that they should be assailed by gratuitous and offensive observations from a magistrate because he takes a view of their calling not yet embodied in the country's laws.

It was only a few days ago that another magistrate, a Captain Downe, sitting as chairman in the Ashford Police Court, made himself ridiculous by the observation that a certain applicant for a licence-transfer was unsatisfactory because he had not obtained the vicar as a reference although he had the signature of the two churchwardens and the support of the Chief Constable of Ramsgate! There is not a trade in the whole country which has to give so many hostages for respectability as that of the publican, and yet he has to submit in silence to the insolence of any tectotal fanatic who happens to be on the magisterial bench. I wonder how many Justices of the Peace would pass a licensed victualler's tests!

JOHN BULL.

To J. H. Beeton, Esq., Parish Council, Ash.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—Your complaint at the last meeting of the Parish Council awakens in my bosom emotions of unfeigned regret that your importance—in Ash—should be insufficiently recognised. If the King were to appear in Ash the whole population would turn out into the street to shout "Hurrah!" and throw up its hat and wave its handkerchief, but when your Excellency appears in the midst I gather there is none so poor as to do you reverence. Even the roadmen officially decline to perceive you when you pass by, apparently, for the only notice one of them took of you upon a recent occasion was to remark "That's only a parish councillor." Odds fish! and odds bodikins! and odds life!—*only* a parish councillor! Know not the varlets in Ash that 'tis a great dignity and a noble office and a mighty exaltation? Out upon them for jackanapes all, your Excellency, and when you take your walks abroad command them to their obeisance and their kow-tow. Bid them to salaam and grovel, to bow the head and bend the knee before you, according to that station in life to which it hath pleased Providence to call them.

JOHN BULL.

Chief Constable Gentle, Brighton.

Can you inform me whether it is a fact—and if so why—that at the Coronation festivities an hour's extension was refused to Brighton publicans by Licensing Bench whilst same was granted to those at Worthing, Newhaven, Hove, and Lewes?

BULL.

CELEBRITIES AT PLAY.

HALDANE: "I say, Kitchey, I've got my army into an awful muddle. Can't you help me to put it in order?"
KITCHENER: "Don't bother me, Hally. Can't you see I'm busy?"

JOHN BULL. JULY 1ST, 1911.

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By Verax.

After the Coronation—A Bright Outlook—Cheap Money *v.* Wrangling Political Parties.

The Coronation festivities having passed off without a hitch, business on the Stock Exchange is being resumed under favourable conditions, and although the political wrangling is resumed, the abundance and cheapness of money should provide the antidote. There are excellent opportunities for investment in Home Rails now close to dividend stage, in Rhodesian Mines, and various other mining specialities, also in Oil Shares, Foreign Rails and Home Industrials. There seems little temptation to buy Yankee Rails, as the yield of Home Rails is higher. Consols continue below 80, but a fair business is passing in better yielding gilt-edged securities such as *Australian Three and a Half per Cent. Inscribed Stock*, returning 3⅞ per cent. per annum. *Canadian Pacifics* are not very far off 250, and are enjoying special favour. Kaffirs and Rubbers are marking time, but it would be surprising if, after the protracted interruption of business, investors were not at last entering the markets again.

The Great Future of Rhodesian Mines—Rhodesia Ex. Directors' Report.

I stated last week that in the case of *Rhodesian Mines*, a number of properties have entered the producing stage, and are increasing their output, while others are in a forward state of development, and upon the whole promise exceedingly well, some of the mines being of extraordinary richness. The following is a list of the leading Rhodesian mines now actively dealt in, and a comparison with former prices will show that the present are very low quotations :—

	Highest, 1910.	Highest, 1911.	Lowest, 1911.	Present Price.
Lonely Reef	65/-	3 5-16	2⅛	3 13-32
Rhod. Gold Mng. and Invest.	—	—	—	1 7-16
Shamva Mines	5½	5½	3 9-16	4 7-16
Amal. Prop. of Rhod. (5/-)	13/6	9/3	5/9	6/-
Antelope (5/-)	2⅜	11/6½	6/-	6/6
Bucks Reef	3 19-32	2 3-16	¼	13-16
Chartered	2 1-16	35/1½	1 15-32	1 19-32
Chicago Gaika	22/6	15/-	11/6	12/6
Eldorado Banket	4 3 16	3⅛	3	3 3-16
Enterprise	73/9	2⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Exp. Land and Minerals (5/-)	13/6	8/9	5/-	5/9
Gaika Gold	49/-	38/9	27/-	1 13-32
Giant Mines	5 7-16	4⅛	3⅛	3 5-16
Globe and Phœnix (5/-)	3	2 13-16	2⅛	2 25-32
Hay Mines	—	—	—	1 5-16
Rhodesia Cons. (10/-)	—	—	—	6/-
Rhodesia Exploration	4⅛	3.5-16	1⅞	2 3-16
Rezende	3 1-16	2⅛	1⅛	1 15-16
Selukwe (5/-)	25/7½	5/6	2	2/9
Surprise	75/-	1⅛	⅞	13-16
Tanganyika Cons.	7⅞	6 3-16	4 5-16	4 25-32
Willoughby Cons. (10/-)	25/6	22/6	14/-	19/9
Cam and Motor (27/6) (17/6 pd.)	—	—	—	15/-
Falcon Mines	—	2⅛	1⅛	1 17-32
Thistle Etna	50/6	1⅛	⅞	1⅛
Ldn and Rhod. Mng. and Lds.	2 5-16	2⅛	1 3-16	1 9-32

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At the meeting of the *Rhodesian Gold Mines and Investment Company*, which is controlled by Messrs. Lewis and Marks, Mr. C. F. Rowsell, the chairman of the company, was able to place a most favourable position before the shareholders. The profit realised in the first year is £14,751. The unrealised profit, owing to the rise in the company's holdings, is £145,000, practically 50 per cent. of the capital, and so carefully has the selection of the properties acquired been made that this profit is bound to vastly increase. The company are the largest individual holders in the rich *Lonely Reef Mine*, which shows at the 6th level 2 ozs. to the ton, and in which hitherto the assays have improved at every level, as also in the *Sabi Mine* controlled by the company. The shares are very cheap at the present price of 1⅛ per £1 share.

Rhodesia Exploration Directors' Report—An Excellent Showing.

Looked forward to with much interest, the directors' report of the *Rhodesia Exploration and Development Company* is now in the hands of the shareholders, and makes an excellent showing. There are gross profits for 1910 of £230,855, and a net profit of £186,116, making, with the amount brought in, a total of £222,510, out of which dividends and directors' percentage, absorbing £199,647, have been paid, carrying forward £22,863. The meeting will be held to-morrow (Friday), and the directors will recommend an interim dividend of 10 per cent.—the same as a year ago. The assets figure in the balance-sheet at £1,201,349, taken at or under cost, which includes £1,032,459 of quoted securities, the market value of which on December 31st last was, however, £2,006,066, and at mid-June £2,060,756. The company also possesses high-class holdings and cash, which bring up the total figure to £3,355,086, against which there are liabilities of only £316,813. This gives a valuation of £2 per share for the issued shares of the company, apart from the most valuable unfloated properties, etc. In connection with the latter, the report states that an important company is to be floated to take over the land holdings of this and some other Rhodesian companies, while the flotation of the *Enterprise Gold Schist* properties will be undertaken in August. The flotation of a large *Land Company*, in which the 1½ million acres of the *Amalgamated Properties* will play an important part, is also foreshadowed. The directors give publicity to a policy for securing an assured annual revenue to provide a dividend of at least 10 per cent. per annum, in addition to which there will be bonuses reaching, no doubt, at least 20 per cent., which was paid for the previous year. These shares are some of the most progressive in the Rhodesian market, and the present price, 2 3-16, is absurdly low.

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The *Ida H Gold Mining Company* has, in its time, yielded excellent results, viz., in 1901-2 15,339 oz. of gold (dividend 40 p.c.), in 1903 13,997 oz. (div. 40 p.c.), 1904 30 p.c., 1905 25 p.c., 1906 7½ p.c. In 1908 and 1909 considerable sums were written off mine development and small balances carried forward, and in 1910 up to April, 1911, 17,150 tons were crushed for 10,204 oz. of gold (average 11.9 dwts.), 12,680 tons cyanided, average 2.22 dwts. Not only had the grade of ore gradually fallen, but the working costs were far too high. Fortunately, at the 1,000 ft. level, cross-cutting from the winze, rich ore has been struck, south from 4 oz. down to 13 dwts., north from 10 oz. 9 dwts. to 1 oz., while in a second winze 7 oz. assays were obtained; and so far the ore reserves on March 31st were 25,700 tons, estimated to contain 20,742 oz. For May, a small profit of £996 was obtained. In order to reduce working costs from £2 15s. by at least 30s. per ton the mill has, under advice of leading mining engineers, been shut down for three months from June 10th, in order to instal new boilers, winding machinery, etc. At the same time, development work will be pushed ahead and a fresh winze will be sunk at the north end of the 1,000-ft. level, to further prove the rich lode, and driving at the south end of the same level to open up fresh chutes will be continued. Three boreholes to the south of the main shaft will be put down 1,000 ft. each to explore the Wabash lease, from which very rich ore was taken out by the company at the start. The company owns 120 acres, of which a large portion is virgin ground. Ample funds are in hand for the proposed work. It will be seen, therefore, that the *Ida H* has entered an interesting and most attractive stage. With a reduction of costs to 25s. per ton, profits will at once be earned, while there is every prospect of more rich ore being developed. In former times, *Ida H* 5s. shares, in view of the small capital and with their big earnings, stood as high as 40s. They are now quoted 8s. There is here, therefore, margin for a most important appreciation, and an opportunity for making a most promising lock-up investment.

Tin and Tin Mines—An Attractive Nigerian Proposition.

The Tin corner has come to an end after £230 had been touched, and the Syndicate made terms with the remaining "Bear" operators and then dropped the price to £187 cash. At this price consumers apparently came in freely and the price is up again at £193¾. Thus the Syndicate stock, which had been increased by 2,000 tons, will now be reduced again. Splendid profits will, under these cir-

cumstances, be made by leading Tin Companies, and while the Straits Mines continue to show reduced outputs, Nigeria promises to become a big producer. The new Spanish company, the *Balcobo Tin Mines*, too, promises to yield big profits. Dr. Scholz, the general manager, has returned from Spain, where he has re-started operations on the Mine by hand labour, pending the erection of the machinery, and it appears that some four tons will thus be produced in the first month at a good profit. I have received several enquiries as to which Nigerian Tin Company would be best to invest in. On this point I have no doubt—it should be the *Champion Gold Reefs of West Africa, Ltd.*, now called the *Champion Nigeria Tin Fields, Ltd.* This is, apart from the *Niger Company*, the pioneer undertaking in Nigeria, which has acquired large interests in tin-bearing areas both direct and through its subsidiaries. A considerable quantity of tin is already being won by calabashing, and energetic work is being carried on, so that most of the properties should start work soon. Of the four Companies floated, blocks of shares of the *Naraguta Tin Mines*, with working capital of £20,000; and the *Juga Tin and Power Company*, working capital £50,000; are about to be introduced on the Paris Bourse. Other subsidiaries are the *Lucky Chance Mines* (working capital £27,000) and the *Tin Fields of Northern Nigeria* (working capital £25,000). Large interests are retained by the Parent Company in all these and interests have also been secured in the *Northern Nigeria (Bauchi) Tin Mines*, and in other undertakings. These alluvial tin areas in a new and virgin field are bound to increase in value as the old fields are getting exhausted. Railway construction has also been undertaken by the Government, and more subsidiaries will be floated. All the above-mentioned properties have been approved of by experts. The profit for the period from May 3rd, 1909, to September 30th, 1910, was £505,387, taking the shares at the price of September 30th last, of which, however, £437,066 has not yet been realised in cash. This amount has been transferred to a suspense account. Out of the balance of £68,320 realised profit, a dividend of 100 per cent. was paid in March, 1910, but further cash dividends will doubtless be paid with the progress of the tin field. The capital is only £50,000 in 5s. shares, which stand at £$\frac{7}{8}$—1 per share, but these shares have touched £4 per share, and with their enormous potentialities are bound to rise to a much higher level again.

MAIKOP OIL SHARES RALLY—ADVANCE IN CRUDE OIL.

The Oil share market is still in an expectant condition, but there is every reason—and, indeed, every justification—for expecting a return to more active times shortly. The price of crude oil has gone up at Baku with another bound to 22 copecks per pood, with a corresponding advance in prices in other centres. But I am still of opinion that the best opportunities are to be found in the Maikop division. For instance, the *Maikop Victory* has just struck oil in Well No. 2, which has become a fountain. These shares look very attractive at $\frac{3}{8}$ premium, the more so as another gusher has been struck by the *Maikop Producers* on Plot 490. Still very cheap are *Maikop Valley Prefs.*, at only $\frac{5}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$, in view of the fact that this company owns no less than 28 plots, from one of which, Plot 460, the news may be expected any day now of the striking of oil. *Black Sea Ordinary* have been steadily picked up of late, and now stand at 1$\frac{3}{8}$, *Maikop Pipeline* at 21s. The Roumanian oilfield continues to make steady progress, and the *Anglo-Roumanian Petroleum Company*, for instance, expects an average output for the second half of the year of not less than 4,000 tons of oil monthly.

HESSEL, GOULD AND COMPANY.

With reference to what has appeared in JOHN BULL concerning Hessel, Gould and Company, the outside brokers, of 66, Victoria Street, from whom clients cannot obtain any answers, a reader of JOHN BULL, in view of the suggestion that that firm had departed, writes to say that "the clients of Hessel, Gould and Company will find *him* at 41, Gore Street, Greenheys, Manchester. His name is Ernest A. Wainwright." It is impossible for me to ascertain whether this information is correct or not, but as a good many clients seem to want to know what has become of the firm I herewith give the little hint.

RUBBERS NOT YET OUT OF THE WOOD—SMALL INVESTMENT PURCHASES, HOWEVER, KEEP THINGS STEADY.

The Rubber share market is by no means out of the wood yet, but purchases on behalf of small investors are keeping things pretty steady, with the aid, also, of a fair-sized "Bear" account. American consumers, by taking over the bulk of the holdings of the Brazilian Syndicate, have now satisfied their requirements to some extent. *Linggis* and *Vallambrosas* have, as usual, led the fluctuations, and now stand at 40s. 6d. and 28s. 6d. respectively, while *Anglo-Malay* have been pretty firm at 17s. 6d. The high-priced shares are still suffering to the greatest extent, as the public, warned by past experience, are shunning these in favour of the more moderately priced shares, where the risk is obviously much less. The low-priced group is still out of the running, but their time will come again presently, when the market has quite regained its equilibrium. Of course, I refer only to the sound concerns, and not to the numerous "wild cats."

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

(1) Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 2, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are made only in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.

(4) In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquirers wish it, for transacting business, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

(6) A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

AFRICAN AMAL. LANDS.—T. W. S. R.—This concern is not now in existence, and I do not advise you to throw more good money after bad by joining the agitation promoted by the person in question. Moreover, you might make yourself liable for an unknown sum in law costs.

OILS.—E. L. L.—(1) It is impossible to tell to what price these shares will rise, but always take good profits when you can get them. (2) Ditto, but you can hold as an investment. X. Z.—The general state of the market has been against these shares, but they are a promising holding, and eventually the prophecy should be fulfilled. RHUBARB.—You must indeed be "green" to expect to get the 1s. premium back if you sell the shares. You get the ruling price and no more, and any loss resulting therefrom you must put up with. I cannot say that I like the shares, and distinctly prefer, in fact, the Maikop issues specially mentioned in my letter.

OUTSIDE BROKERS.—Q. E. D.—I have had no complaints with regard to this outside concern, but if you do business with them, you will have to keep strictly to their rules, and be sure to give instructions to close when there is a profit. CANNY.—Outside brokers, fairly respectable, but I do not know about their capital, neither do I consider the publications of any outside brokers absolutely reliable, as they obviously will give preference to shares in which they are interested. B. H. OPTION.—There have been several complaints of late of delays in payments of claims on the part of this concern. You must keep them up to it. B. H. (Plymouth).—I should think you had better deal through a member of the Stock Exchange, with whom you would be quite safe. CLEOPATRA.—Not one of the three outside concerns mentioned by you can be recommended. You should deal through a member of the Stock Exchange. R. M.—There have of late been complaints of delays in settlement of claims by this outside concern, and I should advise you not to deal through them. It is preferable to do business with a member of the Stock Exchange. T. E. C.—No. You will have to be very sharp to look after your money, and see that the rules are carefully kept in your dealings. J. E.—Walsingham, Sons and Nephews, stock and share dealers, late of Finsbury Court, E.C., were not members of the Stock Exchange. They are merely outside brokers, and I do not know what has become of them. FRENCH CONSOLS.—This is a "bucket-shop," and I strongly advise you to have nothing to do with the people. The proposition is altogether absurd. The circular is returned. A BILSTONITE.—The firm are, of course, outside brokers, but I have had no complaints of late that they do not pay. I am afraid that you have lost the shares, in view of the fall of 7 points, and in any case, you do not seem to have notified these people to close your account. You had better write to them, and ask what profits have been made. What you require has been forwarded. G. A. R.—When you deal with outside brokers of this type, you practically place your head in the lion's mouth. Whoever is right, they are bound to stick to the money as much as possible. You had best take what you can get, or you won't get anything at all, and then make a vow to deal only with members of the Stock Exchange in future. NEMO (Lancs.).—The reply to "G. A. R." practically applies in your case. When pushed to the wall, these outside brokers plead the Gaming Act, and you can recover nothing at all in the Courts. K. J. A.—The Queen Victoria Street concern cannot be recommended, and the Birmingham people are worse, as there are great complaints about their not settling claims. You should have nothing to do with such doubtful outside brokers. STOCKS, H. E. C.—I am sorry for your experience with Duncan Forbes and Company, the outside brokers, but you are only one of many who cannot get their money. Why do you deal with such outsiders? J. M.—Walsingham and Nephews, of Finsbury Court, are not members of the Stock Exchange. They are outside brokers, and apparently they are trying to make an arrangement with their creditors. I do not see how I can help you. URNO.—Barclay, Power and Company are outside dealers, and they are not the only ones who do not keep their promise of paying up. You should deal only with members of the Stock Exchange. C. E. J.—You seem to have done very well through your speculations with the National Share Exchange, and under the circumstances, as they say the profits are limited, I do not see that you have much to complain of. You had better take the money at once. The documents are returned.

BIRKBECK BANK STOCK DEALING.—WORKER.—You do not tell me whether the Birkbeck Bank retained in their possession the West Australian and New Irish Land stock which they bought for you, and I assume that you have paid for the same. Now that the bank has suspended, I should think that they will deliver to you these stocks, which, I take it, they held only for safe custody, but you must request the special manager, Mr. Plender, to forward them to you.

SMALL SOCIETY.—A. K.—I do not like this concern, and advise your friend to withdraw his money at once, if he can get it.

BANK INVESTMENT.—G. R.—If you are nervous in the matter, why do you not invest in sound securities, which would yield you about 3½ per cent.? See last week's table of high-class stocks. If you wish it, I can let you have the name of a stockbroker, member of the Stock Exchange, who will buy the shares for you.

£50 INVESTMENT.—CHELSEA.—Put the money into either the P.O. Savings Bank, or a sound security, such as, for instance, Western Australian 3½ per cent. bonds.

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By Verax.

After the Coronation—A Bright Outlook—Cheap Money *v.* Wrangling Political Parties.

The Coronation festivities having passed off without a hitch, business on the Stock Exchange is being resumed under favourable conditions, and although the political wrangling is resumed, the abundance and cheapness of money should provide the antidote. There are excellent opportunities for investment in Home Rails now close to dividend stage, in Rhodesian Mines, and various other mining specialities, also in Oil Shares, Foreign Rails and Home Industrials. There seems little temptation to buy Yankee Rails, as the yield of Home Rails is higher. Consols continue below 80, but a fair business is passing in better yielding gilt-edged securities such as *Australian Three and a Half per Cent. Inscribed Stock*, returning 3⅝ per cent. per annum. *Canadian Pacifics* are not very far off 250, and are enjoying special favour. Kaffirs and Rubbers are marking time, but it would be surprising if, after the protracted interruption of business, investors were not at last entering the markets again.

The Great Future of Rhodesian Mines—Rhodesia Ex. Directors' Report.

I stated last week that in the case of *Rhodesian Mines*, a number of properties have entered the producing stage, and are increasing their output, while others are in a forward state of development, and upon the whole promise exceedingly well, some of the mines being of extraordinary richness. The following is a list of the leading Rhodesian mines now actively dealt in, and a comparison with former prices will show that the present are very low quotations :—

	Highest, 1910.	Highest, 1911.	Lowest, 1911.	Present Price.
Lonely Reef	65/-	3 5-16	2⅛	3 13-32
Rhod. Gold Mng. and Invest.	—	—	—	1 7-16
Shamva Mines	5⅛	5⅛	3 9-16	4 7-16
Amal. Prop. of Rhod. (5/-)	13/6	9/3	5/9	6/-
Antelope (5/-)	2⅛	11/6½	6/-	6/6
Bucks Reef	3 19-32	2 3-16	¼	13-16
Chartered	2 1-16	35/1¼	1 15-32	1 19-32
Chicago Gaika	22/6	15/-	11/6	12/6
Eldorado Banket	4 3-16	3⅛	3	3 3-16
Enterprise	73/9	2⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Exp. Land and Minerals (5/-)	13/6	8/9	5/-	5/9
Gaika Gold	49/-	38/9	27/-	1 13-32
Giant Mines	5 7-16	4⅛	3⅛	3 5-16
Globe and Phœnix (5/-)	3	2 13-16	2⅛	2 25-32
Hay Mines	—	—	—	1 5-16
Rhodesia Cons. (10/-)	—	—	—	6/-
Rhodesia Exploration	4⅛	3 5-16	1⅞	2 3-16
Rezende	3 1-16	2⅛	1⅛	1 15-16
Selukwe (5/-)	25/7½	5/6	2	2/9
Surprise	75/-	1⅛	¾	13-16
Tanganyika Cons.	7⅛	6 3-16	4 5-16	4 25-32
Willoughby Cons. (10/-)	25/6	22/6	14/-	19/9
Cam and Motor (27/6) (17/6 pd.)	—	—	—	15/-
Falcon Mines	—	2⅛	1⅛	1 17-32
Thistle Etna	50/6	1⅛	⅞	1⅛
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The Oil share market is still in an expectant condition, but there is every reason—and, indeed, every justification—for expecting a return to more active times shortly. The price of crude oil has gone up at Baku with another bound to 22 copecks per pood, with a corresponding advance in prices in other centres. But I am still of opinion that the best opportunities are to be found in the Maikop division. For instance, the *Maikop Victory* has just struck oil in Well No. 2, which has become a fountain. These shares look very attractive at ⅜ premium, the more so as another gusher has been struck by the *Maikop Producers* on Plot 490. Still very cheap are *Maikop Valley Prefs.*, at only ⅝ to ¾, in view of the fact that this company owns no less than 28 plots, from one of which, Plot 460, the news may be expected any day now of the striking of oil. *Black Sea Ordinary* have been steadily picked up of late, and now stand at 1⅜, *Maikop Pipeline* at 21s. The Roumanian oilfield continues to make steady progress, and the *Anglo-Roumanian Petroleum Company*, for instance, expects an average output for the second half of the year of not less than 4,000 tons of oil monthly.

HESSEL, GOULD AND COMPANY.

With reference to what has appeared in JOHN BULL concerning Hessel, Gould and Company, the outside brokers, of 66, Victoria Street, from whom clients cannot obtain any answers, a reader of JOHN BULL, in view of the suggestion that that firm had departed, writes to say that "the clients of Hessel, Gould and Company will find *him* at 41, Gore Street, Greenheys, Manchester. His name is Ernest A. Wainwright." It is impossible for me to ascertain whether this information is correct or not, but as a good many clients seem to want to know what has become of the firm I herewith give the little hint.

RUBBERS NOT YET OUT OF THE WOOD—SMALL INVESTMENT PURCHASES, HOWEVER, KEEP THINGS STEADY.

The Rubber share market is by no means out of the wood yet, but purchases on behalf of small investors are keeping things pretty steady, with the aid, also, of a fair-sized "Bear" account. American consumers, by taking over the bulk of the holdings of the Brazilian Syndicate, have now satisfied their requirements to some extent. *Linggis* and *Vallambrosas* have, as usual, led the fluctuations, and now stand at 40s. 6d. and 28s. 6d. respectively, while *Anglo-Malay* have been pretty firm at 17s. 6d. The high-priced shares are still suffering to the greatest extent, as the public, warned by past experience, are shunning these in favour of the more moderately priced shares, where the risk is obviously much less. The low-priced group is still out of the running, but their time will come again presently, when the market has quite regained its equilibrium. Of course, I refer only to the sound concerns, and not to the numerous "wild cats."

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

(1) Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 9, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are made only in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.

(4) In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquirers wish it, for transacting business, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

(6) A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

AFRICAN AMAL. LANDS.—T. W. S. R.—This concern is not now in existence, and I do not advise you to throw more good money after bad by joining the agitation promoted by the person in question. Moreover, you might make yourself liable for an unknown sum in law costs.

OILS.—E. L. L.—(1) It is impossible to tell to what price these shares will rise, but always take good profits when you can get them. (2) Ditto, but you can hold as an investment. X. Z.—The general state of the market has been against these shares, but they are a promising holding, and eventually the prophecy should be fulfilled. RHUBARB.—You must indeed be "green" to expect to get the 1s. premium back if you sell the shares. You get the ruling price and no more, and any loss resulting therefrom you must put up with. I cannot say that I like the shares, and distinctly prefer, in fact, the Maikop issues specially mentioned in my letter.

OUTSIDE BROKERS.—Q. E. D.—I have had no complaints with regard to this outside concern, but if you do business with them, you will have to keep strictly to their rules, and be sure to give instructions to close when there is a profit. CANNY.—Outside brokers, fairly respectable, but I do not know about their capital, neither do I consider the publications of any outside brokers absolutely reliable, as they obviously will give preference to shares in which they are interested. B. H. ORTON.—There have been several complaints of late of delays in payments of claims on the part of this concern. You must keep them up to it. B. H. (Plymouth).—I should think you had better deal through a member of the Stock Exchange, with whom you would be quite safe. CLEOPATRA.—Not one of the three outside concerns mentioned by you can be recommended. You should deal through a member of the Stock Exchange. R. M.—There have of late been complaints of delays in settlement of claims by this outside concern, and I should advise you not to deal through them. It is preferable to do business with a member of the Stock Exchange. T. E. C. —No. You will have to be very sharp to look after your money, and see that the rules are carefully kept in your dealings. J. E.—Walsingham, Sons and Nephews, stock and share dealers, late of Finsbury Court, E.C., were not members of the Stock Exchange. They are merely outside brokers, and I do not know what has become of them. FRENCH CONSOLS.—This is a "bucket-shop," and I strongly advise you to have nothing to do with the people. The proposition is altogether absurd. The circular is returned. A BILSTONITE.—The firm are, of course, outside brokers, but I have had no complaints of late that they do not pay. I am afraid that you have lost the shares, in view of the fall of 7 points, and in any case, you do not seem to have notified these people to close your account. You had better write to them, and ask what profits have been made. What you require has been forwarded. G. A. R.—When you deal with outside brokers of this type, you practically place your head in the lion's mouth. Whoever is right, they are bound to stick to the money as much as possible. You had best take what you can get, or you won't get anything at all, and then make a vow to deal only with members of the Stock Exchange in future. NEMO (Lancs.).—The reply to "G. A. R." practically applies in your case. When pushed to the wall, these outside brokers plead the Gaming Act, and you can recover nothing at all in the Courts. K. J. A.—The Queen Victoria Street concern cannot be recommended, and the Birmingham people are worse, as there are great complaints about their not settling claims. You should have nothing to do with such doubtful outside brokers. STOCKS, H. E. C.—I am sorry for your experience with Duncan Forbes and Company, the outside brokers, but you are only one of many who cannot get their money. Why do you deal with such outsiders? J. M.—Walsingham and Nephews, of Finsbury Court, are not members of the Stock Exchange. They are outside brokers, and apparently they are trying to make an arrangement with their creditors. I do not see how I can help you. URIO. —Barclay, Power and Company are outside dealers, and they are not the only ones who do not keep their promise of paying up. You should deal only with members of the Stock Exchange. C. E. J.—You seem to have done very well through your speculations with the National Share Exchange, and under the circumstances, as they say the profits are limited, I do not see that you have much to complain of. You had better take the money at once. The documents are returned.

BIRKBECK BANK STOCK DEALING.—WORKER.—You do not tell me whether the Birkbeck Bank retained in their possession the West Australian and New Irish Land stock which they bought for you, and I assume that you have paid for the same. Now that the bank has suspended, I should think that they will deliver to you these stocks, which, I take it, they held only for safe custody, but you must request the special manager, Mr. Plender, to forward them to you.

SMALL SOCIETY.—A. K.—I do not like this concern, and advise your friend to withdraw his money at once, if he can get it.

BANK INVESTMENT.—G. R.—If you are nervous in the matter, why do you not invest in sound securities, which would yield you about 3½ per cent.? See last week's table of high-class stocks. If you wish it, I can let you have the name of a stockbroker, member of the Stock Exchange, who will buy the shares for you.

£50 INVESTMENT.—CHELSEA.—Put the money into either the P.O. Savings Bank, or a sound security, such as, for instance, Western Australian 3½ per cent. bonds.

ETAT INDEPENDANT DU CONGO.—GAMEKEEPER.—I have made enquiries, and find that the bond is perfectly in order, and has not been drawn hitherto. The value is £3 2s. 6d. The document is returned.

£1,000 INVESTMENT.—F. E.—You cannot do better than place the money in a selection of the stocks given in a table in last week's issue. These securities have the additional advantage of being easily realisable, and, as a rule, you would get your money fourteen days after the sale.

GEDULD.—BOAZ.—The price had been in the first place much too high, and therefore the fall has been greater in proportion. The company has not yet entered the dividend list, although it is now earning profits of about £3,000 per month—nothing to boast of. After the heavy fall, however, I cannot recommend you to sacrifice your shares now.

BUILDING SOCIETIES, PENNY BANKS, ETC.—I have received a number of communications from former clients of the Birkbeck Bank, and from others who have been disturbed by the suspension of that institution, who wish to invest their money in sound securities, or deal elsewhere. I do not claim to be an authority on all these various concerns throughout the country, as so much depends upon local conditions, but I strongly advise those who are doubtful concerning certain companies or banks to withdraw their money, and put it into sound gilt-edged securities, of which I gave in last week's issue a special list, with the yield. They will, of course, have to employ a stockbroker, member of the Stock Exchange. FIRE.—Such banks as the London County and Westminster, which has taken over the building and other assets, would do very well. H. K—It would be advisable to invest in sound securities. MINA.—Same reply as to the preceding enquirer. You can, of course, do business safely through the post with your stockbroker. G. H. C.—Same reply. I cannot, of course, guarantee the safety of every concern, and if you are doubtful, you had better invest in gilt-edged securities, according to my article. G. G. (Poplar).—You should consult the table of gilt-edged securities in last week's article, and deal through a member of the Stock Exchange. INVESTMENT OF £300.—J. R. C.—Same reply. INVESTMENT OF £400.—J. F.—I cannot tell you anything about the Building Society in question, and if you are doubtful you had better invest the money in gilt-edged stocks mentioned in my article last week. You should deal through a stockbroker, or, in the case of Premium Bonds, through a foreign banker in London who makes a speciality of them, and whose name I send you. B. B. (Edinburgh).—I cannot tell you anything about this Devonport bank, but if you have any doubt in the matter, you had better invest the money in sound securities. W. H. P.—I have no special information with regard to this Building Society, but if you have any doubts you had better withdraw the money and invest it in sound securities, according to the table of gilt-edged securities in last week's issue. Harrods are safe enough. I send you the name of a reliable dealer in Premium Bonds, as requested. A.T. (Southampton).—I cannot tell you about this country Building Society, but if you are not satisfied, invest the money in sound securities.

BANK OR INVESTMENT.—S. S. (Kingsland Road).—With regard to the £500 in question, I would strongly advise you to invest the same in sound securities. You can obtain in gilt-edged securities up to 3½ per cent., and my article, with table, in last week's issue, will give you the necessary information.

INVESTMENT COMPANY.—S. C. (Conisborough).—I think you had better take the surrender value which they offer you, or else you might lose the lot.

SMALL BANK.—WESTCLIFF.—I suppose there should be no risk for a small amount, but why don't you invest your money in gilt-edged securities? You will get more than deposit rate. See last week's article.

WEST AUSTRALIAN CLAIM.—J. H B. (Burton).—The West Australian Trustee, Executor and Agency Company, Limited, Perth, W.A., is a very respectable concern, and distinguished men are on the board. They are not likely to do you out of any money, and they will no doubt do their best to arrange the matter. Why do you not write direct to them, and ask how the matter stands?

BOOTS.—WAIT AND SEE.—A good Industrial holding, but not without some speculative character, and it would not be advisable to put too much money into any one particular undertaking of the kind.

£500 INVESTMENT.—SANDY ROW.—The money is no doubt all right where it is at present, but if you feel uneasy you should withdraw it and place it into a selection of the securities, yielding up to 4½ per cent. per annum, set forth elsewhere in the present issue.

ALTATA MINING AND MILLING CO.—ALF. H.—This appears to be a very doubtful American concern, regarding which, moreover, no information is available here, and there is no market for the shares.

RHODESIAN CO.—PULLAWAY.—I hold no brief for the directors of this concern, but I fail to see what advantage would be gained by opposing the reduction of the company to a level more in consonance with its assets. Moreover, by joining the movement, you make yourself liable to an unknown amount in law costs, despite any agreement that may be signed to the contrary—and for what purpose?

RUBBERS AND OILS.—JOSEPHINE.—(1) These shares have declined owing to the general weakness of the markets, but they should be worth averaging. (2) Fair prospects, but when you can see a profit, take it. B. C.—(1) It should be worth while averaging these shares presently. (2) A promising purchase in the Oil group.

MINES, OILS.—A. F. J.—It is a good thing that the cheque was irregular. I do not advise you to complete the transaction. The £200 should be put into some of the sound securities, of which a table was given in last week's issue. Black Seas and Maikop Victory are sound Oil shares, but I cannot tell you yet when dividend payments will commence. The Rhodesian shares in question are good, but Hay Gold Mine, after the fall, are even better. Hold the Balcobo shares; operations have already commenced on a small scale, and with good results. The best way to dispose of the Picture Theatre shares is to advertise them in the daily press. PESSEK.—Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 are good Mining holdings. No. 4 is of a more fluctuating character, and No. 8 has not yet fulfilled expectations. The Oil shares, No. 9, may come right eventually, but it is a case for patience.

SHARE ISSUES.—ALLOTMENT.—As far as I am aware, such allotments have to be registered, but the Somerset House authorities will doubtless fully enlighten you upon the subject.

SOCIETY.—DUBIOUS.—You best course would be to place this money into sound securities. The list of such which was given last week should suit you exactly.

MOTOR INVENTION.—T. P. (Cardiff).—I am not aware of any such invention being already on the market, or formed into a new company. Your best plan would be to get into touch, through advertising or by introduction, with a respectable Patent Agent. As regards the invention itself, if it does what you claim for it, there should be little difficulty in getting one of the motor car companies to take it up. First patent it, and then write to the leading companies, or advertise it.

RUBBERS, OILS, MINES.—EALA.—Hold the two Rubber shares, 1 and 2. It is also a case for patience with regard to the Oil shares, 3. You have a mixed lot of Mines, the best of which are: Antelope (6), Amalgamated Props. (7), and Randfontein (10). The others, however, have also possibilities, especially Chillagoes (9).

OPTION TRANSACTION.—J. B.—Nobody can foretell this with certainty, especially in view of the fact that the "dead" season is ahead, and the dislocation of business caused by the Coronation has still to be reckoned with. Home Rails would be about the most suitable stocks for your purpose, say, Brighton "A," or Dover "A."

BIRKBECK BANK.—F. E. P. (Fulham).—I should think that the London County and Westminster Bank, who are now taking over some of the accounts, would also make you fair terms.

BENEFIT AND SAVING SOCIETIES.—MAKSTEG.—It is exceedingly difficult to obtain reliable information about Benefit Societies. Why do you not invest in securities instead? I confirm what I wrote in last week's issue, when I gave a list of gilt-edged stocks in which good returns are to be obtained, and I can recommend to you a firm of stockbrokers, members of the Stock Exchange. ANXIOUS (Bournebrook).—It is very difficult to obtain any further information concerning the society. I should think you had better cease paying, and try and get the money back. There is always the Post Office Savings Bank ready to hand.

PREMIUM BONDS.—A. W. M.—(1) What you require has been forwarded. There is no illegality. (2) I do not see how you can do better than leave the Trust money in India stock. A. H. L. (Cornwall).—The foreign concern in question may be prosperous enough, but they are charging prices far above market value, and you would do better with the firm whose name I send you, and who will charge only ruling prices. TORCHON.—The foreign firm in question usually charges considerably above market value, and I should think it is also likely that they are offering less than market value to sellers. I send you the name of a thoroughly reliable London firm of foreign bankers, who will get you absolute value.

ST. LEGER SWEEPSTAKE.—E. D.—I really cannot tell you whether the people in Basle are reliable for purchasing tickets for the St. Leger Sweepstake, Calcutta, and elsewhere. Why don't you send the money direct to the Secretary of the Club?

CHANNEL COAST COMMITTEE.—MAORI.—(1) If you mean this undertaking, I understand that excellent development work is proceeding at the seaside resort St. Cecile, and prospects are good. (2) The other people mentioned are outside brokers, and I have so far had no complaints.

BIRKBECK BUILDING SOCIETY.—C. P.—I do not see how I can help you. The matter is in the hands of the Official Receiver, who will no doubt act fairly to all. Order has now been given for the winding up of the Building Society.

TIN SHARES.—C. B.—Highly speculative, even for a Mining proposition, and I do not advise a purchase.

SOUTH AFRICANS.—ST. MORITZ.—All are satisfactory holdings of their class, with the exception of Simmer East (2). This company has just reported a net loss of £5,718 for the quarter ended April 30th, so that you can gauge the prospects for yourself.

INSURANCE REPLIES.

Insurance Enquiries should be addressed Insurance Editor, 93, Long Acre, W.C.

STAR OF HOPE INSURANCE COMPANY.—A. K. (Walsall).—The £22 would be paid as stated, "£1 a week for a period of 22 weeks." We return your policy, and may add that we agree with your acquaintance.

INSURANCE AGAINST LOSS.—A. A. (Pudsey).—We do not think it would be possible to insure against possible loss of the kind you mention.

ROYAL LONDON FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—W. (Bristol).—If you could prove that the agent misled you you might be able to recover.

VALIDITY OF INSURANCE.—H. C. (Smethwick). The policies are only enforceable if they were taken out for the purpose of covering funeral expenses.

UNIVERSAL INSURANCE LOAN AND INVESTMENT COMPANY.—A. E. B. (Chester).—No company "has taken over the Universal," although portions of its business have been transferred. Let us know the company to which you refer as inviting you to continue paying the premiums to them, and we will tell you whether you should do so. B. N. (Pendeen).—We think you should advise your acquaintance not to accept the offer of Messrs. T. H. Wordsworth and Co., but to go on paying the premiums.

LONDON AND MANCHESTER ASSURANCE COMPANY.—F. D. (Oldham).—The agent misled you. The Act of 1909 only validates the policy if it was taken out for the purpose of covering funeral expenses.

PUBLIC BENEFITS INVESTMENT AND SICKNESS BENEFIT CORPORATION.—F. H. (Peckham).—The answer is in the negative.

INSURANCE OFFICES.—W. F. (Houghton-le-Spring).—You will get the information you want from any insurance book of reference.

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—Robin (High Wycombe).—The policy is valid if it was taken out for the purpose of covering funeral expenses. A. W. R. (Mitcheldean). Ditto.

RECOVERY OF PREMIUMS.—J. H. (Llantriant).—If you can prove that the facts you state were known to the agent who negotiated the policy, you could recover in a Court of Law.

LAW, CAR AND GENERAL INSURANCE CORPORATION.—SHAREHOLDER (Brighton).—The deficiency disclosed by the statement of affairs makes it certain that shareholders will be called upon for the full amount unpaid on all classes of shares. The nominal amount of unpaid capital liable to be called up to meet the deficiency, which is put at £348,946, is £162,565 19s. 6d.

ECONOMIC LIFE ASSURANCE CO.—D. C. K. (Devonport).—We think the transfer to the Alliance advantageous to those interested in the Economic.

ROYAL LONDON MUTUAL INSURANCE SOCIETY.—J. B. (Bethnal Green).—Yes, we think so.

NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY.—ZETA.—The answer to your question is in the affirmative.

LONDON AND MANCHESTER INDUSTRIAL ASSURANCE CO.—X. Y. Z. (Pentre).—It is a question of fact. If you could support your statement to the satisfaction of a Judge, you could enforce your claim, but as to whether you could or not, we could not possibly advise you on such information as you have sent. J. B. (Forest Gate).—Yes, certainly.

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA LEGAL FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—J. H. (Wigan).—We think you may rest easy about your policies. J. G. (Leeds).—If the facts are as you state them you could, we think, recover the premiums paid, but unless you are prepared to go to law about it, we fear you will not succeed.

VALIDITY OF POLICY.—J. J. H. (Sidbury).—If the facts are as you state them, you could recover the premiums paid. A. E. (Westcliff-on-Sea).—If the insurance was to cover funeral expenses, the Act of 1909 has made it valid.

ANGLO-DUTCH INVESTMENT AND INSURANCE CO.—E. W. (Cork).—The Corporation is under sound management.

PEARL ASSURANCE CO.—A. C. (Dartmoor).—There is no insurable interest. C. B. (Dudley).—You might be able to recover, but the cost and worry would be considerable. We return your policy.

WESLEYAN AND GENERAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—F. B. (Bournemouth).—If you insured to cover funeral expenses, the policy is valid. If not, not.

TRANSFER OF POLICY.—F. B. (Nottingham).—Yes, is would be quite possible to transfer from the Prudential to another office. For example, a life, aged 30 next birthday, we will say, effected a policy with the Prudential Co. 15 years ago, the amount being £100, payable with profits at death. The policy holder transfers, say, to the Scottish Widows' and has taken a paid-up policy in the Prudential free of further payments, the value being £52. New assurance with the Scottish Widows' £48, together £100. Net cost—new premium on £48, £1 16s. 8d.; former premium £2 9s. 6d.; which represents a saving of 13s. The policy holder may, however, reply that he has lost the accumulative profits on his old policy, extending over a period of 15 years. To that the answer is that he may spend the available 13s. shown above in assuring for an additional amount, which would just about equal the profits on his old policy.

STATUS OF COMPANY.—ENQUIRER (Walthamstow).—It is a new office. Why not go to one of the better established ones?

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ASSURANCE CO.—INKPOT (Newcastle-on-Tyne).—We think you had better wait until September.

MUTUAL LIFE OF AUSTRALASIA.—H. H. S. (Halesowen).—You should continue your premiums.

BRITISH CITIZENS' ASSURANCE CO.—W. E. Y. (Plymouth).—If the facts are as you state them, you have serious ground of complaint. You should consult a solicitor.

It is requested that all letters sent us relating to the validity of policies held in the Prudential be marked on the envelope "Prudential."

"When Three is Company."

You two and "Ross," the aristocrat of non-alcoholic beverages. You need nothing to accompany "Ross." It is enjoyable because of its own characteristic flavour—refreshing because of its own stimulating qualities — desirable because of its own health-giving virtues.

Ross is essentially an exclusive beverage — the "Ross" Artesian Wells—the "Ross" standard of purity—the personal supervision by the third generation of Ross—all make "Ross" a drink of inimitable merits.

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(Wholesale only.) 27

OUR SEASIDE ENTERTAINMENT SCHEME.

A NOVEL ARRANGEMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF "JOHN BULL" READERS.

We have inaugurated a scheme which will enable any of our readers to enjoy first-class entertainments during their seaside holidays at considerably reduced prices, and in many cases HALF PRICE, ***during July, August, and September.***

By arrangement with the Proprietors of the entertainments mentioned below, any reader on presentation of the coupon to be found at the foot of the tablet on Page 1 ***of the cover may obtain admission at half price (or at the reduced price), to the performances as set forth below.***

Coupons from our "companion" journal, "Mrs. Bull," will also be accepted.

Such arrangements have never been made before by any journal, and we are confident that those of our readers, either residents or on holiday in the towns mentioned, will not hesitate to avail themselves of these opportunities to the full.

BEXHILL-ON-SEA.—*Bijou Theatre, Town Hall Square.* Half price to 6d. and 1/- seats at Matinees, except Wednesdays and Saturdays. *Coronet Entertainers, The Lawn, Marina.* Half price to 6d. and 1/- seats at all morning performances except Wednesdays and Saturdays.

BLACKPOOL.—*Tivoli Electric Theatre (opposite North Pier).* Half Price to 1/6, 1/- and 6d. seats.

BOGNOR.—*The Pier Picture Theatre.* Half price to 1/- and 6d. seats (special nights excepted).

BOURNEMOUTH. — *West's Pictures, Shaftesbury Hall.* Half price to all seats.

BRIDLINGTON.—*The New Spa, Gardens and Opera House.* 6d. Day Tickets issued at Half price.

BRIGHTON.—*Grand Concert Hall Picture Palace, West Street.* Admission to 9d. seats 4d.; 6d. seats 3d.; 3d. seats 2d.

BROADSTAIRS.—*Bohemia.* Half price to all seats at 6.30 performances.

CLACTON-ON-SEA. — *Operetta House.* Half price to 1/- and 6d. seats; 9d. seats 4d., except on Saturdays.

COLWYN BAY.—*Arcadia.* Catlin's Royal Pierrots. Half price to 1/-, 9d., 6d., and 4d. seats at all morning and afternoon performances.

DEAL. — *Collins' Royal Animated Pictures, Marina Hall.* 6d. seats 4d.; 3d. seats 2d. at all Matinees and on Tuesday and Friday evenings.

DOUGLAS. — *Charles Dare's Minstrels, on Douglas Head.* Special free seats to all performances. Daily 11 and 3. (Wet days in the *Empire Theatre.* Coupon holders half price to 1/- and 6d. seats.) *Empire Theatre.* Twice nightly. Half price to 1/- seats only.

DOVER. — *Shanly's Animated Pictures, Wellington Hall, Snargate Street.* Half price to 1/- and 6d. seats, 3d. seats 2d. (except on Weds. and Sats.).

DOVERCOURT.—*Victoria Hall and Gardens.* Mr. Chas. D. Wright's Stars of Eve Concert Party. Half price admission (excepting Costume Nights). Evenings at 8, matinees Saturday at 3.

EASTBOURNE.—*Gallery of Illustration, Terminus Road.* Half price to all performances.

EXMOUTH. — *Queen's Pavilion.* Catlin's Royal Pierrots. Half price to 1/, 9d., 6d., and 4d. seats at all morning and afternoon performances.

FILEY. — *Andie Caine's Entertainers, The Sands.* 6d. seats 4d., 3d. seats 2d. at morning performances. Also at the Pavilion, similar prices to the evening performances.

HASTINGS.—*Pelham Hall Electric Theatre, Pelham Place.* Half price to 1s. and 6d. seats, 3d. seats 2d.

HERNE BAY.—Messrs. Rouse, Way and Wilson. *Central Hall and Avenue Gardens, Pier Avenue.* Half price to all matinees.

ILFRACOMBE.—*Gaiety Concert Hall, Promenade.* Half price to 1/- and 6d. seats at matinees, 1/6 seats 1/- on Monday evenings only.

JERSEY.—*West's Pictures, Royal Hall.* Half price to all seats.

LITTLEHAMPTON. — *Harry Joseph's Arcadia.* Half price to all seats (except on Wednesdays).

MARGATE. — *Beach Pavilion.* Catlin's Royal Pierrots. Half price to 1/-, 9d., 6d., and 4d. seats, at all morning and afternoon performances.

PAIGNTON.—*Pavilion on the Green.* Fred Spencer's Entertainment. Reduced prices to afternoon performances. 6d. seats 4d.; 3d. seats 2d.; half price to promenade.

RAMSGATE.—*Royal Victoria Pavilion and Theatre.* Promenade Concerts 11 to 1 and 3 to 5. Picture shows 3 to 5, and Sunday concerts between 8.15 p.m. and 9.45 p.m. Half price to all seats except those at 2d.

ROKER.—Charles Elderton's Entertainers, *Summer Gardens.* Half price admission.

RYDE.—*Theatre Royal,* Half price to all performances except on Saturdays and Bank Holidays.

SALTBURN.—*Electric Theatre.* 6d. seats 4d., 3d. seats 2d.

SANDGATE.—*Alhambra Theatre of Varieties.* Half price to performances on Thursdays and Fridays.

SCARBOROUGH.—*Arcadia.* Catlin's Royal Pierrots. Half price to 1/-, 9d., 6d., and 4d. seats at all morning and afternoon performances.

SHANKLIN. — *The Favourites. Miller's Green Esplanade.* Half price to 1/- and 6d. seats, Day performances only and Children's Competitions.

SOUTHEND.—*The Happy Valley,* Lyell Johnston's Jovial Cards. Half price to afternoon performances.

SOUTHPORT.—*Pierhead,* Bert Byrne's Pierrots. Half price to 6d. seats (except Wednesdays and Saturdays).

TEIGNMOUTH. — The Bohemians, *Esplanade Pavilion.* 6d. seats 4d., 3d. seats 2d., matinees only.

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OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER IN MANCHESTER.

SPYING ON THE POLICE.—A FALSE OFFICIAL REPORT.—A SHIP CANAL ITEM.

Having occasion to call at the Town Hall, Manchester, on business, I heard that the City Council was sitting, and that the proceedings were open to the public, so I went in to see how the City Fathers conducted their business. It was a revelation.

Space forbids a full description, but I gathered enough material in half an hour to fill two or three copies of JOHN BULL with some very startling things. I will confine myself to one, and will first give a brief *résumé* of facts, in order that the full scandal may be publicly exposed.

There is a place under the Reference Library which is used by the police for their meals. They are allowed fifteen minutes for lunch. I commend this to the promoters of the Yankee quick lunch syndicate. Now it having been reported that some of the men brought more than they could "gobble" (one cannot call it eating) in this time, and in consequence sometimes overstayed that liberal allowance, some plain-clothes men were brought in from another division to watch and report the gourmands. A nice little coal-cellar which looked into the room was used for the purpose, and through a hole that was supposed to be a ventilator, the delinquents were noted. I have had a look through the hole in question, and the room in which the dark deed was done is plainly visible. The men were reported, duly brought up, and fined very heavily, and as some of them have long years of service to their credit, without a black mark, they naturally resented this disgraceful act of espionage, and appealed to the Watch Committee.

The Watch Committee should have met on a Thursday, but something cropped up at the last minute, and the meeting was hastily summoned for the day before by police constables on bicycles, one member getting his notice at 5 p.m. for the meeting at 3 p.m. The men concerned were called in from their duties at a minute's notice, paraded at Albert Street Station, and marched like convicts to the Town Hall, under escort. Previous to their going there, their note-books were taken from them, so that when they came before the Committee they were not in a position to deny the charges, as the books contained a record of the times they had taken, and therefore the officials had it all their own way—and the fines were confirmed.

That is the case in a nutshell. Now, when I arrived in the Council Chamber the minutes of that meeting had just come up for confirmation, and a member of the Committee (Councillor Howell) discovered that there was no record of this incident. The parading of the men, the removal of the men's note-books, the heavy fines imposed on some twenty of the Council's servants, were not even mentioned, and this attempt to ignore a matter of such vital interest was vigorously protested against.

Another Councillor denied that the men were marched through the streets and that the books were taken from them, and this led to the unseemly invitation from one Councillor to another to "meet him outside." Anyway, the minutes were referred back, and in a panic a special meeting of the Watch Committee was summoned for the next day to whitewash the officials, *à la* Masterman. (A statement was submitted, signed by the Superintendent and Drill Instructor, that the men were *not* marched through the street, and that their books were *not* taken away, and no doubt the powers rested calmly on their pillows that night.)

The men were brought in individually before this special meeting of the Committee, and every one said that he *was* marched like a felon under escort, and that the books *were* taken away, and not restored till the next day; and in face of this overwhelming mass of evidence, the Superintendent and Inspector had to admit that they had "*forgotten the circumstances*," and, stranger still, the Watch Committee actually accepted this left-handed explanation and whitewashed the officers!

In the report of the proceedings issued to the public, and signed by the Lord Mayor and others, it is stated that it was found that the men *had* been marched through the streets and that their books *were* taken from them, but it was the "usual custom." If it *is* the usual custom to so degrade officers in the Manchester Police, who have years of good service behind them, for such a trivial offence, the sooner it is altered the better for all concerned, and the sooner such underhand spying by one division on the other, at the bidding of the officials, is knocked on the head, the more will the force be respected. The whole thing is a disgrace, and the action of the officers responsible for such hole-and-corner work is beneath contempt.

This episode naturally set me making enquiries about the police administration generally, and I got some startling results. I have enough to bring about a Home Office enquiry, and my next article will deal with some truly extraordinary exposures.

THE MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL DIRECTORATE.

At the same Council Meeting I saw a nice little bit of the Party game. There is a vacancy on the Board of Directors of the Canal, caused by the death of one of the Aldermen, and at the end of the meeting, when barely a third of the Council were left, somebody got up and proposed that Councillor So-and-So be duly elected to serve as a Director. A business Councillor got up and vigorously protested against such cut-and-dried appointments, irrespective of business capability, so the appointment was postponed. This led me to ask a question as to how such appointments were usually made. I was told that this is a pawn in the party game (it is worth £180 per annum) and is given, by arrangement, first to a Liberal and next time to a Conservative, as a reward for services rendered to the Party. A man may be a shoemaker, or a tailor, or any or no trade as the case may be—so long as he is a good party man, and lives long enough, he is bound to get the offer of it in due time. I am not at all astonished that the Canal cannot pay dividends. And yet there are millions of Manchester's civic funds locked up in this enterprise, and the Councillors are supposed to be returned to safeguard the interests of the ratepayers. *Poor ratepayers!*

SOUTH HACKNEY.

MR. BOTTOMLEY'S COMMITTEE GOING STRONG—PREMIER'S SON RUMOURED AS OFFICIAL LIBERAL CANDIDATE.

Mr. Bottomley's speech at the Hackney Empire—together with the weighty address of the Chairman of the meeting (Mr. T. E. Young, B.A., the ex-Mayor of Hackney) and the other speeches delivered on that occasion—has been reprinted in pamphlet form, and is now being circulated throughout the constituency, together with a form of application for membership of the South Hackney Parliamentary Committee. The result has already been remarkable—members of all parties having expressed their determination to stand by the sitting member and to support him in his plea for the independence of the House of Commons. The Committee already numbers upwards of two thousand members, and hundreds are joining daily.

Meanwhile it is interesting and amusing to read the various rumours as to impending developments. One of the latest is that Mr. Raymond Asquith, the son of the Prime Minister, will be the official Liberal candidate, but the report must not be taken too seriously. When Mr. Raymond seeks a seat in Parliament, something more certain than South Hackney will be found for him. All that is sure is that in view of Mr. Bottomley's recent declaration, an effort will be made to find a stronger Party candidate than the obscure gentleman who stood at the last election. But there is no rush for the honour!

LETTERS FROM JANE ANN.

BEING COMMUNICATIONS FROM A YOUNG PERSON TO HER FRIENDS AND RELATIONS.

BY MOORE ANKING.

SKIBBORIDGE NEUK,
SITHA, N.B.

DEAR MOTHER,—Haven't forgotten your birthday, old darling. Been trying to remember when it is, and wondering what to send you for a present. What say to a nail brush (we use 'em here) or a set of jugs, or a fringe net and sulphur tablets?

Next time you write, mother, you might send me some of father's love-letters, those he wrote when he was at Dartmoor looking for work. One of our young ladies is writing a love story and told me she should like something helpful—something with passhun. Father's letters be just the thing I should think, if you cross out the wicked names he used to call Aunt Margaret.

Shouldn't wonder but my young lady might like to read father's verses. You know those I mean, mother—A giddy young man of Calcutta, and bits like that. Or that other one about the old man of Bombay.

Very busy here now, ma, bridge parties, and picknicks, and no end of visitors. Now and again I get told off to take the puzzles for beauty walks. Tut, tut. I don't hardly know where to go or what to do for the best, specially when they're forrigners. Last time I marched out with the forces, our old housekeeper give me a little lecture beforehand.

"Jane," she says, "take the ladies though the bosky dells and show them the 'holesome and the beautiful."

I didn't have the leastest notion what she meant, mother. Of course, I know what bosky is, through seeing Parkins when he come from sea, and father when he brought his load home after closing time. I've heard the potman say dad was bosky and Chinese and "elephants," but that's as far's my memory serves.

Well, as I couldn't do what I'd been told, through not knowing what it was had to be done, I did the best I could s'far's I could understand what it was I had to do.

Some of our hens had been laying out, so when the proceshun was ready I took it round the hedges looking for eggs. We found three, but they weren't any good when we got home, through getting bumped on the way. One of 'em must have been nursed before we found it; the lady carrying that one had to walk by herself after it got broke. She went straight to her room as soon's we got back, which was only right and proper. I haven't seen her since, but if she still wears the same dress I dessay she can be found if wanted.

Come to think of it, ma, you mightn't like any of the presents I've mentioned for your birthday. Well, what say to a pink pye-jammer suit of George's—I mean his lordship's?

Be just the thing to wear, ma, when you're scrubbing out the town hall, make you look reel classy. I reckon you'd be worth seeing. And if they caught you bending it wouldn't matter a bit; when they see your rateable vallue they'd know the borough was getting it's money's worth. Be a site like they never set eyes on before or after, not often. You think it over, ma, and I'll see what I can do.

Lord Dumchuck—George, as we call him, looks fizzing in his pye-jammers, and so comfortable when the tassel's loose, as it generally is when he's been playing bridge.

That reminds me. Aunt Margaret said in her last letter she wasn't feeling very well, so if I was you, mother, I shouldn't leave her out of sight for long together. You ought to go round often as you can spare the time, and tell her your troubles and be a sister to her, as long as she'll stand it. You don't never know your luck, mother, and p'raps she'll be glad of a little kindness if you don't overdo it. Besides, she must have a long stocking somewhere, she can't be spent up yet, shouldn't think.

I don't know of any more news this time, mother, only write me soon's you can. And don't go kneeling about the wet floors, 'cause you so soon get cramp in the benders, don't you mother? Well, so long for now.

x x Your very loving daughter, x x

JANE ANN.

MRS. BULL.

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A WOMAN'S CHARTER.

THE FORECAST OF A NERVOUS MAN.

By Richard Morton.

The women have "all but" got the Vote. It is a stone certainty now. If you do not believe my statement, ask the first gentle Suffragette with whom you are acquainted. In their minds there is no doubt about it, and there is very little in mine.

When they have secured the Vote they will naturally want other things, for the appetite is titillated by what it feeds on. The right to put a cross against the name of a Parliamentary candidate will never satisfy the ambition of militant womanhood, and our sisters, our mothers, and our aunts will want more. To save them the trouble of indicating their further requirements, I have drafted out a kind of white paper, containing an advance list of demands to be made in the near future, and in fear and trembling I offer it to my brethren in misfortune:—

A Few Modest Requests.

That woman shall be regarded as the equal of man. If married, she shall be his superior. In the cases where simple equality is conceded, it is understood that woman shall count first.

In the home, woman shall be paramount, and the husband shall have no voice. He shall be permitted to leave home each morning to go to his daily work, and shall be permitted to return when his work is done.

He shall spend the evening at home if his wife shall have any committee meeting, social reunion, or other function to attend. Should her evening happen to be free from public engagements he shall be allowed to escort her to a theatre, hall, or picture show, according to her desire and discretion.

Should her day have been occupied by correspondence, interviews, meetings, or otherwise for the good of the cause, he shall spend the evening in doing such domestic duties as she may have been obliged to leave undone.

On pay-day he shall bring home his salary intact and hand it to her. She shall take what she may consider necessary for household purposes and such further sum as she may desire for her personal needs, and the balance (if any) she may place in the bank or hand to him. Provided always, that she must on no account return him sufficient to pamper him or tempt him into vicious courses.

The wife shall be empowered to invite her mother to come and stay just as often and as long as she likes, without wry faces or objectionable words on the part of the husband.

The wife's mother shall be accorded a share of the best bedroom, the husband to return thanks for being allowed to curl up on the sofa.

The husband's mother shall be on no account admitted to the house for any visit, long or short, except on the occasion of a birthday or a christening (if any), and then only for such space of time as may be sufficient for the handing in by her of such presents as she may have the decency to offer.

No husband shall be permitted to smoke, drink, play cards, back horses, or gamble in any other manner.

Should the husband desire to kiss his wife, he must on each and every occasion (if any) first ask and receive her consent.

The husband must do the Sunday cooking, and on other days must have his food in the City.

The wife may do as she likes.

The husband must also do as she likes.

TAUGHT TO BE CAUTIOUS.

The freemasons of Arbroath, wherever that may be, seem to possess all the canniness of the proverbial Scot. Whatever happens, they are firmly determined not to commit themselves. Their sumptuary decree for their Coronation Procession was: "Dress: Dark White Tie and White Gloves." Apart from the question of airiness in Boreal regions, there is the attraction of economy, seeing that the greater the antiquity of the necktie, the more complete its accord with the ordinance. We are reminded of a white poodle which we met at a French bathing resort, and upon which its owner had conferred the appropriately ironical name of Black.

FOOD PURITY.

A recent issue of *Truth* contains an interesting article on the subject of purity of food supplies. In reviewing the methods of manufacture adopted in the St. Ivel factories, that journal says: "Undoubtedly if all articles of food were as carefully manufactured and as exactly what they represented themselves to be as those which I have passed under review, the world would be much healthier, wealthier and wiser. The day may come when all foods are prepared under conditions as hygienically perfect as those which are so scrupulously maintained in the St. Ivel factories and warehouses. That day is not yet. Still, year by year Science is becoming more and more the handmaid of diet, telling us what food we should eat, and telling the manufacturer how that food should be prepared. Unfortunately, it is not every manufacturer who listens to the biddings of Science, and does his best to fulfil her mandates.

"Fortunately, the manufacturer who does so usually meets with the reward he seeks. Excellence of produce is the usual result of obedience to the scientific behest, and excellence of produce, as in the case of the St. Ivel preparations, creates demand. It is a lesson which, sooner or later, all manufacturers of articles of food will need to learn for themselves, and if they neglect it, and find themselves distanced in the race for popular appreciation by those wiser than themselves, they will only have themselves to blame. The success which has attended the scientific methods of the manufacturers of the St. Ivel preparations is quite sufficient to show which way the wind of public estimation is blownig. The public wants its food pure, and it wants its food good, and when it realises that any particular food is both pure and good it will insist upon having it."

It would be difficult to give a more convincing tribute to the perfection of St. Ivel manufacturing arrangements, but on the subject of the dietetic value of St. Ivel (Lactic) Cheese *Truth* is even more emphatic. "Everything which is humanly possible has been done to secure its perfect purity," says *Truth*, "and the whole process of manufacture from milk to cheese has taken place under ideal conditions. It will be seen, therefore, that considered only as a cheese, as the ideally constituted nourishment for body and brain, St. Ivel Lactic Cheese answers every test in manufacture which modern science demands for hygienically perfect production.

"Here, perhaps, it may as well be mentioned that St. Ivel Lactic Cheese has those qualities of palatability which are also necessary in the perfect food. Its delicate Cheddar flavour makes of it a *bonne bouche* to the most fastidious palate. Nor can the charge so often made in regard to the indigestibility of cheese be levelled against it.

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Ladies' hemstitched linen cambric, 14 ins. square, ¼-in. hems, 2/11 doz.
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THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. Clement Scott.

A Grave Warning.

How much longer is the theatrical profession going to allow itself to remain a prey to the snares and pitfalls of Society? When will it awaken to the fact that it is only being made use of for the purpose of making money for others, and not to fill the coffers of its own theatres? How many actors and actresses to-day are in a position to retire and live in comfort with their well-earned savings as the Kendals and the Bancrofts were years before this taint for the "upper circles" possessed them? Did this quartette of brilliant players ever dream of "being on show" outside their own playhouses? To them, work was work. They were out to make a living, and not acting and dressing up merely for the fun of the thing.

There is a continuous grumble in the green-room as to the stage not being supported as it should be. The players have only themselves to thank for this condition of things. When artistes are out of an engagement it generally means that there is precious little to eat in the larder, for their salaries have been spent in buying swagger clothes in which to cut a dash at fêtes, balls, bazaars, etc., organised by the Duchess of Dust and Co., with which the theatrical profession has no interest whatever, beyond affording a gratuitous advertisement that does not put a penny into their pockets.

Would any business people behave in so silly a fashion? Would lawyers give advice, or barristers take up briefs under these circumstances? It may be all very well for certain members of the rank and file of the dramatic profession to curry favour with princes, princesses, earls, and countesses, but how about the industrious men and hard-working little women who are forced to follow in the footsteps of their luckier *confrères*, and *consœurs*, and study, and rehearse, and give their services for exhibitions and parades they dare not refuse to participate in for fear of offending their masters? On the other hand, the public shows its resentment by filling the music-halls, where indifferent and imperfect work will not be tolerated for a moment. An artist on the variety stage giving a bad turn gets what is called "The Bird" and is instantly shut up by the letting down of the curtain, but this is due as a rule to incompetence and not to the grovelling at the feet of Society. How on earth can actors and actresses do themselves justice when they come to their business at night, tired and worn out with attending functions at three or four different places, reciting, singing, and exhausting their energies to such an extent that it is impossible to please their audiences by giving a good, sound performance?

"I've been out of work for so long, and these entertainments are so dreadfully expensive," sighed an actress to me last week; "but I have to say 'Yes' to So-and-So, as I may get an engagement at his theatre in his next play." A pretty state of affairs this, is it not? And how deplorable. Besides there is yet another side to the question. If by paying perhaps a shilling or so, people can see the most popular player of the day careering about at fancy fairs, etc., doesn't it stand to reason that they don't want to see the same person dressed up on the stage of a theatre "scamping" through a part, and have to plump down half-a-guinea for the sight?

I'm afraid things have gone too far now for easily checking the sad condition in which so many of the theatrical profession find themselves to-day, but managers cannot be surprised that those who want to be legitimately amused take themselves off in shoals to the music-halls, where all who appear there are earnest, perfect in their study, and do their utmost and best for their employers and the public that believes in them.

Les Deux Gosses.

Mr. Grein in his admirable memoir of Dennery, the great French dramatist, mentions Decourcelle, the author of "The Two Little Vagabonds," as a "coadjutor in providing Paris and the world with melodramas." Perhaps Mr. Grein is unaware of the fact that Pierre Decourcelle is a nephew of Dennery, and that it was from his uncle that Pierre learned the art of writing plays. Turning to my autograph book I find a most graceful tribute written therein by handsome Decourcelle, one of the most courteous gentlemen I have ever met. A good many of Dennery's melodramas have found their way into the cinematograph theatres through Pierre, who of late years has turned his attention to this well-paying industry, and profited considerably by so doing.

SECURE £50

or other Prizes,

IT WILL COST YOU NOTHING.

Simply write your name and address on a post-card, post it STAMPED ONE PENNY FOR FRANCE, and you will be qualified for the certain chance of winning

£50 and other Prizes for Nothing.

REMEMBER IT IS A FREE GIFT

There is NO LIABILITY or RISK.

You cannot believe it? **BUT IT IS SO.** Nothing can be more *bona fide* than our offer, and you have only yourself to blame if you miss this opportunity. Remember this is a straightforward offer on our part. **IT IS NOT A CATCH ADVERTISEMENT.** What we say we do we will carry out to the very letter. Immediately we receive your name and address we register the same free of all cost, and we carry out our promise, and we do not ask you for a penny piece. Yes, the Gift is entirely free to you, and given without any obligation of any kind on your part. Can you afford to miss this wonderful opportunity? We think not. Here, at all events, you have a chance of securing something for nothing.

Do not delay to send us your name and address, when we will immediately act honourably towards you, and send you, **ABSOLUTELY FREE OF ALL COST,** the Certificate, and will finance you in your endeavours to save money.

Large Fortunes are continually being made by small capitalists from Government investments which are thoroughly guaranteed;

and in addition to the above offer we will include our Prospectus which describes a new system of investments for small and thrifty capitalists who can put by from **2/6** a week, with great opportunities and guaranteed increase of capital.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO is to send us a post-card (Penny Stamp for France), with your name and address on it, and we will carry out our promise.

DO NOT DELAY. POST TO-DAY.

ADDRESS,

THE TRUST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(Dept. J.B.), 33, RUE LE PELETIER,

PARIS.

SECURE £50

or other Prizes.

If you doubt what we say a Post Card (stamped 1d. for France) will convince you and there is NO LIABILITY OR RISK.

"Midland" furniture is constructed not only to obtain the most beautiful effects and design, but at the same time for hard wear. Every detail is studied. From the moment the wood enters the Cabinet Maker's Shop until it leaves the Polishing Department ready for the Showrooms, it is only handled by skilled and competent mechanics and under the supervision of experts

The Bedroom Suite illustrated will show how it is possible for us to produce artistic furniture at a moderate price. It is constructed on Sheraton lines and is made throughout of mahogany inlaid with satinwood. The Wardrobe is 5 feet wide and the utmost accommodation has been obtained.

Suite, as illustrated **£24 10 0**

Any article can be supplied by us on our well-known Gradual Payment System extending over one, two or three years without any deposit, interest or extra charges.

Our Illustrated Catalogue entitled "Furniture and Furnishing," containing over 600 illustrations will be mailed post free.

Country orders packed free and carriage paid.

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HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.

Six doors from the Holborn Restaurant and Holborn Station (G.N., P. & B. Railway), 1 minute from British Museum Station (Central London Railway), and 3 minutes from Oxford Street.

BULL'S EYES.

Notes of Interrogation:—
Didn't London have a good show for its money?
Weren't the police "barriers" a "standing" joke?
Wasn't the 22*nd* the longest day for some patient spectators?
Will the Lords now fight the Veto Bill "out"?
Won't Mr. Masterman, having lost his seat, have to "stand" again?
Isn't it rather a Naval sur-Prize Bill?
Are they winding-up the Birkbeck because it wouldn't "go"?
Is the reported decrease of unemployment due to Government "jobs"?
Isn't the weather outlook for shipowners "squally"?
Apropos of Mr. Balfour's "dream of Empire," when is he going to wake up?

"The Chocolate Soldier" has now passed its 300th performance. It seems to suit the public taste.

Riches have wings, it is said. Perhaps this is why they can carry one so far.

The man who pays as he goes is the man who doesn't have to go.

"Love is always a nuisance," says E. M. Heves. But all Eves don't think so.

It is not surprising that the population of Coventry shows a large increase, when we remember how many people are sent there annually.

A pickpocket, caught in the act, pleaded that it was his first offence. Only "getting his hand in," so to speak.

"Half a Crown," is the title of a new play. The author hopes there will be no need to change it for some time.

"There are a great many people still who consider perspiration a curse," says the Rev. W. F. Pearce. But surely *he* does not approve of "sweating"?

The newsvendor who got twenty-one days' hard for crying false news certainly attracted the coppers.

Gulls are said to be as clever as guinea-pigs in the garden. But not in the City.

"Women enjoy being in love," according to Frank Richardson. Yes, and they put their hearts into it.

Jeffries, the pugilist, states that he "will never fight again." No, it might be a loss again.

Harry Lauder is stated to have found the House of Commons not very amusing. "Nothing to make a song about," in fact.

A new book is called "The School of Love." At that school you must get the lessons by heart.

Mr. C. J. Proctor describes present-day pleasures as "chips and sawdust." It's a wonder they "go down" so well.

Cromer's refusal to allow pierrots on the beach, if widely followed, will put them "on the beach" more than ever.

"Tope" fishing is now going on at Herne Bay, but you mustn't call an angler a "toper."

"A play is like a cigar," says Charles Frohman. Yes, a poor one won't draw.

The weekly paper which instructs its readers at length on how to sweep, might have done it in a word—"clean."

The camera disguised as a pair of field-glasses will come in handy when the bathing season commences.

"Two Burglaries in Two Minutes," reads a headline. Whatever the thief took it was not time.

"Many happy couples have been brought together through bazaars," says Sir Edward James. Young men are both "taken in" and "done for" there.

Two sharks about four feet long have been on view in Fleet Street. We have met bigger ones there.

"A saint is a sinner who kept on trying," says the *Smart Set*. And how trying a saint usually is!

An orchestra is to be formed in Berlin consisting entirely of physicians. They should be accustomed to beating Time.

We fear the only Bacon Dr. Owen has found in the Wye is a piece of gammon.

It was stated at a recent meeting that an inmate of Bristol workhouse is constantly smoking sawdust. We must send him some Wood-bines.

An author speaks of "the cement of society." We always thought it was "stuck-up."

To complain of the dearth of marriages seems absurd when girls are to be had for the asking.

"A man is never deserted until he forsakes himself," says Mr. A. E. Waite. Personally, we shun the man who is beside himself.

The married man who had to pay £5 for kissing a girl in the street says he will support home industries in future.

ENGLISHMEN IN CANADA.

HOW A "DOWN AND OUT" IS TREATED.

A Toronto correspondent sends us a copy of the *Toronto Daily Star*, of June 8th last, which he thinks may interest us, as it shows how Englishmen are treated in Canada. It certainly interests us, and we think it will interest our readers. We cannot do better than let it speak for itself, by quoting it *in extenso*:—

> Winnipeg, June 8th.—John E. Hetherington, an Englishman, collapsed in the police cells after three days' imprisonment awaiting trial on a charge of vagrancy preferred by the Associated Charities, and died yesterday.
>
> Secretary Folk had the man arrested, claiming he would not work. Hetherington said he was sick. His wife, who has three children, pleaded for bail while her husband was awaiting trial, but was refused. She claimed he was ill, and had worked when he was able, and was kind to her.
>
> In a statement to the papers the wife says her husband had been murdered by the Associated Charities. No doctor was called to the station when the man collapsed.
>
> The coroner is investigating, and the Sons of England have taken up the case.

Do You Know

that our dainty little Came-a, the "Ensignette," fits the Vest Pocket? It takes wonderful li tle pictures, 2½ by 1½ inches, perfect in definition, and capable of being enlarged easily to Post Card size. This miniature Camera has Rapid Achromatic Lens and is available complete in dust-proof limp leather pocket-case, with book of instructions at the remarkable price of **30/-**

Films a spool of six exposures 10d | Write for photographic lists. | Carriage Paid in British Isles.

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Oxford Street, London, W.

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INSURANCE CORPORATION, LTD.
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL £421,403
Life. Fire. Accident.
Motor. Burglary. Plate Glass, etc.
'THE BUSINESS WOMAN'S' INVESTMENT POLICY.
No Medical Examination required. Prospectus sent on request.
AGENCY APPLICATIONS INVITED.
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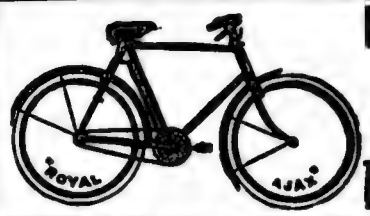
NORWAY by the Royal Mail Steamers
WILSON LINE
The Fjords are a natural feature for which Norway is unique, and are a never-ending source of varied delight to the summer visitor.
Tours have been arranged extending from 6 to 16 days.
The steamers leave Hull every Thursday and Saturday.
BOAT TRAIN LEAVES KING'S CROSS 2 P.M. AND RUNS ALONGSIDE AT HULL.
For full particulars and Illustrated Booklet apply THOS. WILSON, SONS & CO., Ltd., HULL; THE UNITED SHIPPING CO., Ltd, 108, Fenchurch Street, E.C.; THOS. COOK & SON, Ludgate Circus, E.C.; and GELLATLY'S, 51, Pall Mall, S.W.



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From **6/-** Per Month.
OR SECOND-HAND
£2 10s. Cash.
LISTS POST FREE.
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: The Master Key. :

In the Bank of England are thousands of locks, each made to differ so that not one key shall open any other lock But the Governors have one key that opens them all. This is the Master Key. Just so there are many ways employed to make money, but **the** one way that opens the main sources of wealth is that which the world's millionaires have made their own. You may command this Master Key. It is yours for the asking. We are offering it to you here and now. We have mastered the methods of those who have won fortune and have embodied them in our Perfected System of Money-making. That system it is by which the

National Share Exchange

is enabled to reap enormous profits for its clients. We have achieved an impregnable position in the City of London as having already paid away the unprecedented sum of

£504,820

Our Advices bring Fortune to our Clients.

But, say you, anyone may quote figures and make unsupported assertions. Quite so, we cordially invite you to exercise your own judgment and

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that we are, day by day, paying substantial sums to clients who commenced in a very modest way and with no knowledge of Stocks and Shares. You can see their cheques and note how the amounts grow.

£6 May Easily be Doubled and Trebled in a Single Operation. **£6**

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Many clients are good enough to invite us to show their letters to bona-fide enquirers. Our cheque books, our letter files, our paramount position in the City of London, our reputation as cash payers on the stroke of the clock, are behind each and every one of our statements.

It Costs You Nothing to Learn how You Yourself may Use the Master Key.

Take the FIRST STEP Free of Cost.

SEND THE COUPON TO-DAY.—NOW!

The Gateway to Success is Here.

To the Secretary,
The National Share Exchange, Gt. Winchester Street, London, E.C.

Please forward me gratis and post free your booklet, "The Modern System of Money-Making," and other literature which is a clear explanation of the methods which have enabled you to pay away to clients **£504,820.**

J.B 1/7/11

Name _____
(State whether Rev., Mr., Mrs., or Miss or Title.)

Address in Full _____

Date _____ _____
(Please write distinctly).

(This and all our other advertisements are copyright).

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[THE EDITOR *replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.*]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when sending cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," AND ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE SENT FOR THE PURPOSE. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., as, *though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be sent in the first instance; if inspection of the originals is required, a request will be forwarded to that effect.*

ANONYMOUS CORRESPONDENCE is increasing steadily. In future, we will disregard any letter which is not duly authenticated with name and address, which may be given in strict confidence.

FORWARDING LETTERS, ETC.—Our correspondence is growing so enormously that we have to discourage all idea of PUTTING OUR READERS INTO COMMUNICATION WITH ONE ANOTHER. *If the practice grew, we should want an extra staff of clerks, fresh offices, and Jim Crow to keep the peace.*

THE Editor desires to express his sincere thanks to the numerous readers who have sent him their congratulations on the South Hackney Meeting. He wishes it were possible to thank each correspondent personally.

C. W. P. (Swindon).—Thanks for interesting letter. We will keep our eye on the hon. member.

S. S. S. (London).—Our editorial and advertisement departments are quite independent of each other.

"CONSTANT READER" (Oldham) wants to raise a fund to assist poor people in resisting the *encroachments of vaccinators.*

L. F. (Chelsea) is a *foreigner* who thinks it unkind of us to treat aliens differently from our own people. He objects to phrases like the following, "Though he is a foreigner, So-and-so is a decent fellow."

F. S. W. (Brighton).—Silly goat! Did you think whitewash was a colour?

E. W. (Heddon) says that, at small stations on the N.E. Railway, *station-masters* never get a Sunday off, though the porter and clerk do.

F. T. B. (Islington).—It is *inconsiderate* of *firms* to make crowds of applicants assemble after a vacancy has been filled, but we scarcely feel justified in denouncing the one you mention.

MR. J. G. SILLS (Builder and Contractor, Electric Joinery Works, Loughborough) wishes to be dissociated from the "Sills and Co., Bridge Street, Loughborough," referred to in an article in our last issue headed "Touting for Trouble.—An Alien Matrimonial Agency." Mr. Sills says that a few weeks ago he returned a sum of money to a person whose letter, addressed to Sills and Co., was delivered to him, and this is not the first time he has had occasion to adopt this course.

"MOLLY BAWN" (London, S.W.) likes *Jim Crow* very much, thinks he is an Irish Catholic, and hopes he has not a red face or ginger moustache. She felt tired of herself the night she wrote, as she had been talking to a boy with lovely dark eyes, but "alas! he is all eyes and nothing else—no physique, so he won't effect a cure, I know, for my heart disease. I heartily wish . . ." Crow was just beginning to get excited, when his one and only love-letter terminated abruptly.

A. T. (Kettering) was travelling on a *tram-car* when the wind snatched away his ticket. The inspector wanted him to pay over again, though the conductor corroborated his story. A railway company would be more reasonable in such a case, but the Inspector may have been right by the letter of the *by-law.*

A. AND CO. (North Kensington).—We are *not debt-collectors* and cannot intervene between you and your client, even though he did behave badly.

H. S. (Zafarana, Red Sea).—*Charlie Beresford* is a lord by courtesy, but it is usual to give him his title.

MRS. M. D'A. (Edinburgh) says *Paris convents* are inquisitorial and greedy in the matter of the fees of their pupils.

E. S. (Kennington Road) wants to know all about the prospects of advancement in the *Excise Department of the Civil Service.* Evidently he is not ambitious.

MRS. L. (Bradford).—Anybody is entitled to *refuse to receive letters.* Nor is there anything criminal in seeking to avoid creditors.

D. C. (Battersea).—What makes you think the *confessional* illegal in the Church of England?

MISS L. D. (Liverpool) says: "Thank God there are women in the world that would sooner face death itself than live with *another woman's husband.*" Yes, but there are the awful exceptions which prove every rule.

S. P. W. (Heynsham) says that, if he ever becomes a magistrate, he will speak up for *poachers* and pay their fines. But he can do that as it is.

R. B. (Kilburn) says there are very extensive frauds, whereby an inferior article is palmed off as *pig-skin.* Well, someone got dropped on the other day about pigskin pocket-books.

A. M. T. (Ryde).—Yes, but surely all good people try to teach their children to be *kind to animals.*

"REVENGE" says a sidesman *insulted his girl*, and he wants "to show him up without causing any trouble." That sounds difficult. Why not waylay him in a dark lane or put a pennyworth of castor-oil in his whiskey?

A. S. S. (Brixton).—There was nothing fraudulent in sending you a *picture on approval*, but you need not return it until you receive stamps for postage. You are evidently very anxious not to justify your initials.

W. J. L. (Horsmonden).—If you had *refused to be bled*, you would probably have heard no more of the claim.

"CONSTANT READER" (Woolwich).—We understand that it is not worth paying two guineas for *bioscope tuition.*

(*Continued on page* 38.)

A Photographer

Nervous Depression, Lassitude—

Using exactly the *same* safeguard as celebrities means getting *equal protection*, for it is their *experience*, their *word*, which assures you Phosferine is the most potent remedy for nervous disorders. It is to ensure their supremacy, to obtain the vigour to turn abilities into success, that such men as Mark Hambourg (the great pianist), C. B. Fry, and Sandow's Model Pupil, with other athletes innumerable, have recourse to Phosferine. Men who beat all rivals have found *the best means* to do so, and realising that all these famous experts attribute their nerve force and power to Phosferine, Mr. Bernard elected to employ the *same means* to free himself from lassitude and nervous depression. Very soon afterwards he was able to write, "Now I feel splendid," and with the disappearance of all his nervous ills, he finds himself stronger, working energetically, with keen enjoyment in his new power of doing things. In fact, says Mr. Bernard, Phosferine makes success possible so *much sooner* that unquestionably the tonic which is *best* for experts is *best* for all nervously affected.

Totally Banished.

Mr. B. Bernard, Photographer, 4, May Road, Elm Grove, Brighton, writes: "I now feel so well that I cannot deny myself the pleasure of writing and thanking you for the great benefit I have derived from Phosferine. Through overwork, I was nervous and excessively depressed, suffered fearfully from headaches, and felt utterly incapable of the least effort. Then I started taking Phosferine, and a few days saw a wonderful difference in my condition. *Now I feel splendid.* After a course of Phosferine, I not only surprised my friends, but also myself, in the great improvement I had made, more especially in weight lifting. I had not touched this for six weeks, but when I started I improved on three lifts by several pounds. This I am sure was due to the strengthening effect of Phosferine. I find it not only makes me feel *stronger* and *more capable*, but gives a keen, healthy zest to the enjoyment of life which I did not before experience."—January 18, 1911.

PHOSFERINE

THE GREATEST OF ALL TONICS.

A PROVEN REMEDY FOR

Neuralgia	Premature Decay	Anæmia
Rheumatism	Maternity Weakness	Malaria
Brain-fag	Nervous Headaches	Sleeplessness
Indigestion	Sciatica	Nervousness

and all disorders consequent upon a reduced state of the nervous system.

THE ROYAL TONIC.

Phosferine has been supplied by Royal Commands

To the Royal Family
H.I.M. the Dowager Empress of Russia
H.M. the Queen of Roumania
H.M. the King of Greece
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The Imperial Family of China

And the Principal Royalty and Aristocracy throughout the World.

The 2/9 size contains nearly four times the 1/1½ size.

PURE IRISH TWEED SUITS

27/6 To Measure.

CURZON BROS. are always in the front rank of value, and in order to demonstrate this positively, and to establish that the Curzon service offers something all the time which it would be impossible to obtain elsewhere, we have now produced the above special line. The cloths are identical with those sold usually at 42/-

As is already generally known, the Curzon tailoring and cutting leave nothing to be desired. The suit is cut in latest style, can be had in any shape or design according to each customer's individual taste, every suit being specially tailored and cut to special order. The finish and fit of the Curzon tailoring are renowned throughout the world.

Send Postcard for FREE Patterns

It will pay you to write for our explanatory booklet and free patterns of cloth, fashion-plates and unique list of testimonials. With these will be found our registered system of self-measurement and tape measure, so that you may with perfect accuracy and a degree of certitude equal to that of a local tailor, take your own measurements in the privacy of your own home. We guarantee the results.

CURZON BROS.,

60-62, City Road, LONDON, E.C.

West End Depot—PEMBROKE HOUSE,

133 and 135, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.

Those residing in London should call.

Exhibitors at the Festival of Empire, Crystal Palace and at the Coronation Exhibition, White City.

GLORIOUS SUNSHINE.

(Isle of Man statistics show Record Sunshine for 1910-1911)

THE

ISLE OF MAN

FOR

HEALTH AND HOLIDAYS.

A "LITTLE WORLD OF PLEASURE" for both Children and Adults

¶ Beautifully Illustrated Guides; Hotel, Board, Lodging, Farm and Furnished House lists free from J. B. TONGUE, 27, Imperial Buildings, Ludgate Circus, London, E.C.

ALL STOUT PERSONS should send for a Free Trial of the Fell Reducing Treatment. Reduces 7lb. a week without restrictions in diet. Harmless, sure. Enclose stamp to pay postage. Address—Fell Formula Association, 422, Century House, 205, Regent Street, London, W.

Employers welcome trained men.

They are looking for trained men all the time.

Resolve to get ahead quickly by obtaining a thorough knowledge of the theoretical and technical side of your calling. Hard workers are plenty. Trained men are few. The I.C.S. will train you to earn a good salary. So essentially practical is the I.C.S. training that there is a constant demand from employers for I.C.S. students. Read the following:—

"I am pleased to inform you that I have obtained a position with the Albion Motor Co., Ltd., through the influence of your Glasgow Division Superintendent. . . . I am thoroughly satisfied with my course in 'Gas Engine Design.'
(Signed) J. A. GOLDIE, Junr."

The I.C.S. can increase *your* wage-earning capacity, no matter what your present position, occupation or means. No books to buy. No classes to attend, no fixed hours, and no extras. Fill in this coupon and post it off now. It may mean a splendid position for you in the near future.

"The way to Better Pay is the I.C.S. way"

Better Position Coupon

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Please explain, without any obligation on my part, how I can qualify to enter, or to obtain a larger salary in, the occupation or profession before which I have marked X (or in the one stated here.....

—Engineering (state which) —Architecture —Book-keeping &
—Motor —Aviation —Analytical Chemistry Business Training
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Over 180 Courses in all.

Name .....

Address .....

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PROMOTES

a delicious increase of health that makes the whole body tingle with

NEW LIFE.

Even the first wineglassful creates a definite and substantial degree of

RENEWED HEALTH,

and each succeeding wineglassful promotes and maintains

INCREASED VIGOUR

that fortifies the body and enables you to resist illness and regain a wealth of glorious health.

TEST IT FREE!

A liberal trial bottle will be sent on receipt of the coupon below.

Coleman & Co., Ltd., W 44, Wincarnis Works, Norwich.

Please send me a Free Bottle of "Wincarnis." I enclose three penny stamps to pay postage.

Name .....

Address .....

J. B. July 1, '11. .....

A. E. P. (Hull) says *commercial travellers* will soon be unable to exist if large firms go on extending their branches and cutting out small traders.

"MERE MALE" (East Dulwich) suggests that "Yashmak," who wrote about the *rude nude*, is unsightly when undressed. Then an awful alarm overtakes him, and he adds a postscript: "Whether Yashmak is *bona fide* or not, this letter is not to be published if you consider it in any way libellous. I accept no responsibility whatever." All right, his blood be upon our head!

"A SUFFERER" (Deptford) is not disloyal, but thinks it unfair to lose two and a-half days' work at the *building trade* in consequence of the *Coronation* just after losing two days through the Whitsun holidays. We wonder busy people don't organise and combat this plethora of holidays.

W. C. (Peterborough).—No doubt it takes *tallymen* a long time to collect their instalments, but surely they make their bargains with their eyes open and have a shrewd idea of the difficulties ahead.

T. H. B. (Stratford) points out that *credit drapers* who serve the same people for 10 and even 30 years must have a character for straightforward dealing. We never said they were all rogues, but we believe most people would be much better off if the whole credit-system could be abolished.

"LANCASHIRE" (Burnley).—The State Insurance Bill provides by Section 51 that there shall be no distress for rent during the period of sick pay.

J. C. J. (London).—Mr. Havelock Wilson ceased to be a Member of Parliament in 1910.

C. H. L. (Leeds) sends us a copy of the issue of the *Leeds and Yorkshire Amusement Programme* of June 17th, containing a most broad-minded and flattering appreciation of both this journal and its Editor—the text being the recent meeting in South Hackney.

J. A. C. (Bristol) wants us to bet about the usefulness of the *divining* rod. What odds will he lay about the philosopher's stone and the elixir of life?

F. V. S. (Aberdare) had a winning ticket in the *Hamburg Lottery*, but cannot get his money from Fricke and Co., the agents.

E. G. (Coomassie, West Africa) has heard of *Haldane's Peerage*, and is searching the papers vainly "in the hope of finding something to his credit, or why honoured with a viscountancy." He says: "If that is a qualification to a viscountancy to sit on nice soft cushions for years, what should be the reward of a fellow who sat or lay on the hard ground in many of the tropical climates of this world? Dear John, you have no doubt heard of the proverbial camel. Well, this cutting down of pensions is the last straw. I will not sound my horn, but I can say that I have some war service at any rate. And I am not prejudiced, being an Irishman myself, but I challenge your readers to give me the name of a single man who has ever done so much to ruin the prospects of the British soldier as this very individual who has been pleased to accept a viscountancy. I have only two or three months to complete twenty-one years' service, and he can take my pension if it only helps to gain him a Dukedom." That is indeed handsome.

W. W. P. (Stourbridge).—The *Hungarian Lottery* pays its prizes, such as they are, but they may be intercepted by the agents who send out circulars.

A. D. L. (Ontario) says *Canadian banks* afford freer possibilities of promotion and better pay than in England or Scotland, but that work is harder and a strong constitution is needed to stand the continuous hustle. On balance night, for instance, he did not get between the sheets till 3.30 a.m.

W. P. A. (Westbourne Park) is working a straight-forward photographic business, and suffers injury from our frequent warnings about "*portrait tricksters*" and "enlargement swindlers." But if he does not require money in advance, no one can ever suspect him.

E. M. (Bristol) complained to the *Post Office* that a doll had been broken in transmission, and was informed that a stronger box should have been used. Though we have no great admiration for the Post Office, we fancy they may have been right this time.

J. W. M. (Ealing Common) dispatched an *important telegram* to Acton. It took two hours and five minutes for transmission, though the distance could have been covered on foot in twelve minutes. He tells us of someone else who lost £50 because the Post Office omitted four words from one of his telegrams. Of course he received no compensation. The Post Office is above the law.

D. J. W. G. (Kentish Town Road) says he has a serious quarrel with us for our "miracle of blindness" in comparing the *Holy Scriptures* with other inspired works. How many of such other "inspired works" has he read?

MRS. R. P. (Streatham Hill) signed an order for *Cassell's Encyclopædia* and thinks it very unfair that she is not allowed to repudiate it. Perhaps she will be more careful another time.

A. W. G. (Strathcona) says he has only once had difficulty in obtaining *work in Canada*, and that it is "absolute rot" to say that English labourers are not wanted in the cities. He does not advise people to throw up permanent positions in England, but he assures us that casual labourers will find work out there. Does he mean all the year round?

J. T. W. (Paterson, New Jersey) sends us a silly cutting from a New York paper, and says, "the wonder to me is that so little notice is taken of it in England." But why should we bother ourselves about the *Yankee Yellow Press?*

J. B. (Glasgow) quotes the poet Chatterton's invocation to the people of Bristol:

> "I go to where celestial anthems swell,
> But you, when you depart, will sink to Hell."

J. B.'s conclusion is that there will be no room for the *Scots* there. We did not know that *Bristol* was so populous or *Hell* so small.

A. D. (Dublin) considers JOHN BULL an "aneamic" journal (whatever that may mean), and wants us to start discussions in *Mrs. Bull* on the following questions: "*Can a worm do the splits?*" "*Do policemen eat pie?*" "*Are cab-horses happy?*" But these subjects, though open to serious controversy, would not provide prolonged entertainment.

H. R. C. (Stratford) says: "Of course there can be but *one true Church* but this Church embraces members of all sects, sections or denominations." But as the sects all have conflicting views, how can truth be found amongst them all?

C. G. B. (Nottingham) wants to know if the *snow-ball system* of trading is legal, and whether in the end somebody is bound to lose money. We cannot for the moment think of any particular law which would catch it. Of course, the people who fail to keep the ball rolling are the eventual losers. Otherwise the whole population of the world would soon be roped in many times over.

[We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.]

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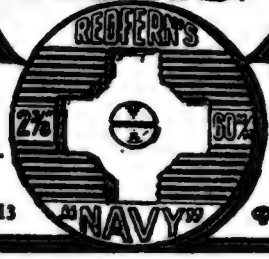

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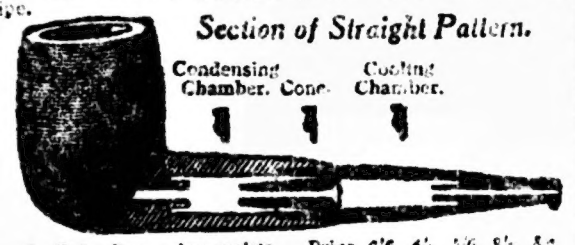

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RACING NOTES.

By W. Lotinga.

("*Double U. L.*" of Lotinga's Weekly and "*Magpie*" of The Globe.)

A Dual Success.

It has not been commented upon as to how very appropriate the signal dual success of Willonyx at Ascot really was, for Mr. C. E. Howard, his owner, is the contractor who built all the new stands at Ascot, and was entirely responsible for the many structural alterations. This was a fitting further commemoration. Mr. Howard's residence, The Grove, Teddington, is one of the show places of the Lower Thames.

An Ascot Suggestion.

I suppose the tents on the far side of the course at Ascot and the refreshment booths adjacent were necessary, but it was a fact that they exactly shut out the whole of the running on the round course to those on the level, and at Ascot it means that two-thirds of those present have no alternative but to remain on the ground in each of the enclosures. On the lawns the seats are used to stand upon, but this merely gives an advantage over the heads of those on the level when the horses are in the finishing straight, and it would really seem that the canvas tents behind the crowd on the opposite rails are exactly fitted so as to exclude the vision from the mile and a half starting post to within a few yards of the turn into the straight. It might be possible by lowering the tents in height or moving them en bloc to the top left hand corner, to allow a view of the running, but I do not apprehend there is the faintest chance of any alteration. I name it, as it was so much commented upon recently. Many hundreds after standing on seats, or even having a box on the lower tiers at Ascot, grumbled that it was no good trying to see anything, as the tents seemed exactly and purposely mapped out so as to shield what was happening.

What Horses may do.

There is no greater lottery than the improvement or retrogression which horses make between two and three years of age. What would have been thought last autumn, or even, say, two or three weeks ago, had it been suggested that Royal Tender would have been placed in the Derby and Tootles started favourite and finish second in the Oaks? Bookmakers' prices were never too liberal, or commensurate with the risk to be run, but some of the odds which the little occasional backer took in the smaller rings or on the course at Epsom were simply ludicrous. It was always 6 to 4 one horse, 2 to 1 a couple more, and about 4 to 1 the biggest outsiders.

Prophetic.

Although he is such a "dog" horse Double Thrush could readily win the Selling Plate at Newmarket to-day (Thursday), but the Princess of Wales' Stakes is not a betting race, being either a gift for Lemberg, unless he waits for the Eclipse—or, in that case, whichever Lord Derby runs, probably King William.

On Friday Newcastle II. and Oversight, a pair of disappointments, ought to win the Waterbeach Handicap between them, and at the weights I reckon

Cellini

certain to gain the Ellesmere Stakes.

Alexandra Park on Saturday, will be

Anchora's

day, whilst I hope to see the Jevington stable win races with Pherenicus in the three-year-old Handicap and Girl of the West among the two-year-olds.

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